

#BXNFMXY  
#000029108198#  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Speakers: 'worship wars' can be avoided

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Gary A. Furr and Milburn Price believe they know how churches can avoid the turmoil of the "worship wars." Both men were at the Baptist Building Aug. 13 while leading a conference on worship sponsored by the witness team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Furr, pastor of Vestavia Hills Church in Birmingham, and Price, dean of the school of music at Samford University in Birmingham and part-time minister of music at Vestavia Hills, have written a book on the subject of worship titled "The Dialogue of Worship: Creating Space for Revelation and Response."

Though today's church seems to be preoccupied with the questions of style, Furr and Price kept pushing the issue of planning and preparation.

Price said, "Any style of worship that is appropriate to that congregation and planned well, can produce growth."

Furr and Price are calling on Baptists pastors, ministers of music, and other leaders to focus less on the style of worship, and more on the content and shape of worship. Central to this approach is planning.

Furr said there are six critical issues in worship planning, and these issues are applicable to whatever style of worship a church might employ:

- Every worship service needs at least one point. "There are 52 Sundays in a year. You don't have to try and say everything in one week," he said.

- Begin with the end in mind. What are you asking the congregation to do? What do you hope transpires during the service?

- Think about transitions — how does "this" lead to "that?" Make it apparent to every participant that the entire service makes sense, that it all fits together.

- Use other opportunities to prepare the congregation for worship besides the Sunday bulletin. Furr suggests a church can

use Wednesdays to educate people about the meaning and elements of worship or, "Let the children's sermon be about one element of worship, like reading Scripture. You'll also be teaching adults! Tell the children why you read scripture, and then have someone read the scripture," he said.

- Plan with the congregation in mind. "Fred Craddock says the congregation is part of the sermon," Furr said. Who are they? How will they participate? How will this service represent them, impact them?

- Think about giving space and places for response. Furr and Price suggested many ways of responding, besides the traditional call to salvation at the invitation.

ented even if you have a translator. The same is true with a music style you don't relate to, but to a style you do relate to, you feel natural — it communicates," Price said.

Problems arise, Price said, when one group tries to spiritualize their style preference as normative for everyone else.

"It is a sin to spiritualize your (preference of music) style," he said.

"The first consideration in planning worship is not what style, but what text! After deciding on the text, then you can discuss the various styles," Price said.

Furr suggests that the current struggle with worship is evident of the church's unease with its role in a changing society.

"We are losing hold on the culture, and we are scared. The attitude today is you don't have to have church to have spirituality, and we are having trouble with this," he said.

Both worship leaders said that people are not really crying for a style of worship, but for authenticity in worship.

"People are crying for something real, something meaningful," Furr said.

In considering worship style, Furr says there are six framing questions a church must ask:

- What are the irreducible, essential aspects of worship?

- What are the diversions and confused motives that might keep us from true worship?

- What is the role of music in worship?

- What are we attempting to do in worship, and who decides?

- Who are we as a congregation?

- What is the fruit?

"While worship seems so lofty in its ideals, we forget that it is human beings who are doing worship in a specific time and place," Furr said.

Furr called on the church to be theological rather than pragmatic in how it approaches worship.

"We need Christian spirituality," he pointed out.



WORSHIP LEADERS — Gary A. Furr (left), pastor of Vestavia Hills Church, Birmingham, Ala., and Melburn Price (right), dean of the School of Music at Samford University and a native Mississippian, visit with Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Silence is a response. An altar call to join the pastor in prayer is also response.

Price said that the heart of worship is a dialogue between the congregation and God, and music is often the language of that dialogue.

"In recent years I have come to view music style as some form of an analogy of a cultural language. In a country where you don't know the language, you feel disori-

## Bivocational ministries on rise, NAMB planner says

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — If present trends continue, bivocational Southern Baptist pastors will outnumber full-time pastors within 10 years — or, to use a biblical term, tentmaking is strongest in areas such as major cities outside the Bible Belt where Southern Baptists are weakest, said Carl Barrington, national missionary for tentmaking ministries for the Southern Baptist North

American Mission Board.

Barrington led a conference, "Ministry in the 21st Century," during the Aug. 8-13 Student Conference at Glorieta (N.M.), Conference Center. He noted that 2.6 persons are graduating from seminaries today for every one existing full-time ministry position.

Only since 1948 has full-time ministry been the dominant Southern Baptist model,

Barrington said. In 1972, only 32% of Southern Baptist pastors were tentmakers, but in 1999 it has risen to 39% and is still climbing. By 2008, he predicted more than half of pastors serving Southern Baptist churches will be supporting themselves and their families through a marketplace vocation.

Barrington called on campus and church student leaders to challenge today's collegians to

prepare themselves both for a vocation in the marketplace and for ministry in the major cities of the United States.

"We need to be graduating people who consider themselves to be lifetime tentmaker ministers," he said.

In addition to tentmaker pastors and church staff members, Barrington said "we've got to have new ways of taking the church to the people."

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

MBC schedule set

4

CML conference set

5

Resource to help families

8

Rules for writers listed

9

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

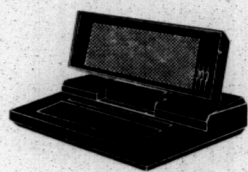
AUGUST 19, 1999

VOL. 123

NO. 27



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Heather Cumberland

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Bettye Coward, Clinton;  
Charles Dunagin, McComb  
Larry Garner, Jackson;  
David Petty, Jackson  
Gary Richardson, West Point;  
Heather Cumberland, secretary.

**Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800  
Missrecord@aol.com**

VOLUME 123 NUMBER 27  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# Forced to accept the unacceptable

**T**he roots of the Boy Scouts of America run deep in the Perkins family. I am the son of an Eagle Scout, the brother of an Eagle Scout, and an Eagle Scout myself. The life lessons I learned in my church-based scout troop about values, reverence, loyalty, patriotism, and respect have served me all the days of my adult life.

In a rudderless culture like ours, the Boy Scouts organization has stood the test of time, helping to train future presidents, governors, Supreme Court justices, more than a few ministers, and countless others in the time-tested ways of moral leadership and spiritual development.

The Boy Scouts of America has certainly not been the only organization to do this over the years, but it has of late become a battleground in the wider, ongoing cultural war to reorder American society in favor of the wicked and the perverse.

Several years ago, San Francisco-based apparel manufacturer Levi Strauss proudly announced that the company intended to stop all contributions to the Boy Scouts of America because the organization declined to celebrate homosexuality as a legitimate alternative lifestyle to be modeled by scout leaders who were practicing homosexuals.

Apparently emboldened by the Levi Strauss move, homosexual rights supporters in California filed suit to force the Boy Scouts to accept homosexuality. The California Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Boy Scouts in March 1998, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal.

Similar cases in Connecticut, Kansas, and Oregon also ended favorably for the Boy Scouts organization. In all the cases, the courts essentially ruled that the Boy Scouts organization was not a business or public accommodation (such as a police or fire department) and therefore not subject to the sexual orientation anti-discrimination rules and laws in place for those types of activities.

Comes now the New Jersey Supreme Court, which unanimously ruled August 4

that the Boy Scouts organization is indeed a "place of public accommodation" and must admit homosexuals in accordance with current anti-discrimination laws in that state.

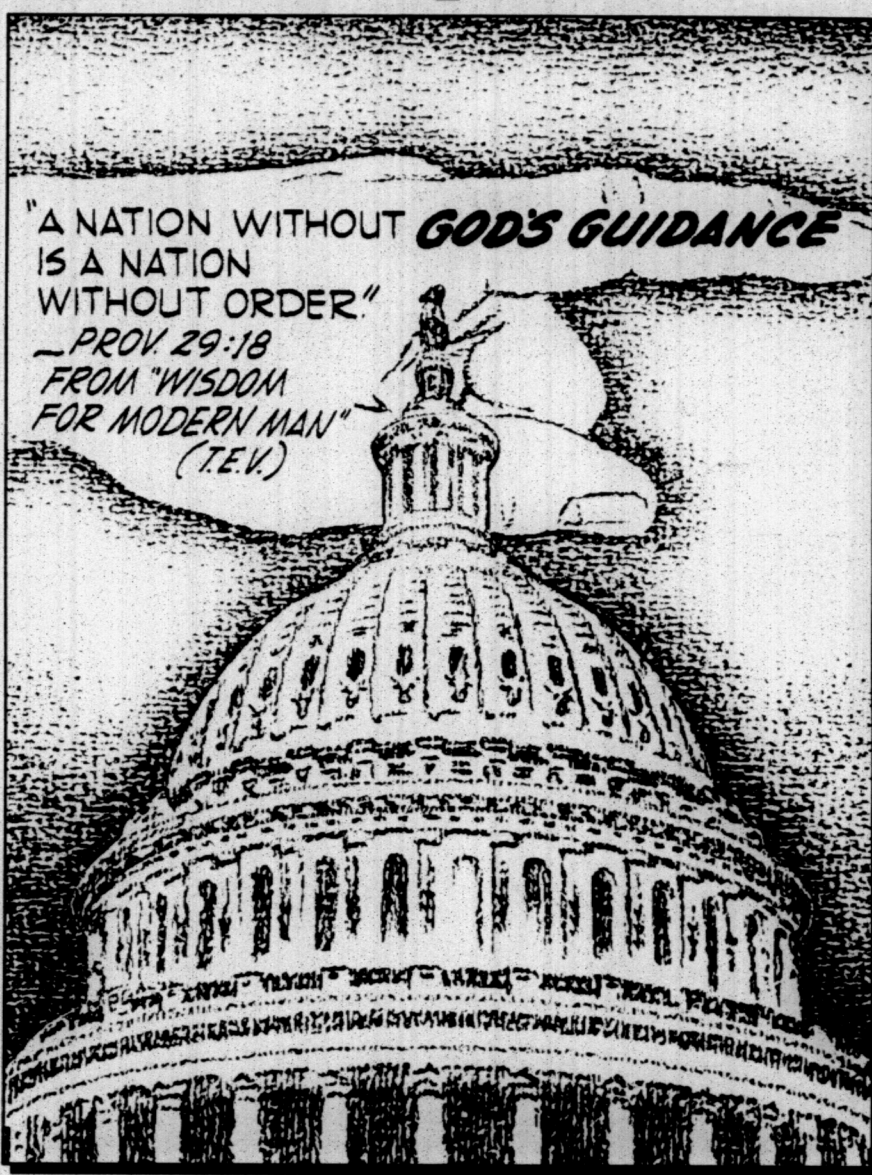
While the ruling currently applies only to the court's New Jersey jurisdiction, an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court is likely and could have implications for the entire country.

In a phrase, the Boy Scouts organization is being forced to accept the unacceptable.

"It's a sad day when the state dictates to parents what role models they must provide for their children," said Boy Scouts attorney George Davidson.

Moreover, this sordid story should be of great importance to churches that sponsor Boy Scout troops and similar character-building organizations — and many Mississippi Baptist churches do just that. It could be that one day soon we'll have organizations associated with our churches that will not be allowed to hold to the same beliefs as the sponsoring churches.

The court's ruling should also be of great importance even to churches that don't sponsor such groups. If the Boy



Scouts organization, a private voluntary group seeking merely to exercise its First Amendment rights to free speech and peaceful assembly, can be forced by the government to accept such perversion, can the church be far behind?

Now there's something to think about and, moreover, to pray about. Isn't it time we got busy in both those areas?

## GUEST OPINION:

### *The little black bag*

By Joe Stout, member  
First Church, Pascagoula

**A**couple of years after my father died, I was rummaging through a closet at my mom's house and came across my father's black leather medical bag.

It had become quite dusty over the years for it had been retired several years before he had quit his dental practice.

Oh, there were one or two occasions when he would visit someone in a nursing home or call on an old friend who had an ailment, when he would carry the black bag.

The leather-wrapped handles no longer feel the grip of the doctor but of the son — not carried proudly from a sense of accomplishment, degree of education, or years of practice, but carried now from a sense of value, antiquity, curiosity.

It was a job cleaning it up, with the alligator skin-like finish. However, with a little care it again was ready for a purpose — one that I would begin to see very soon.

Exploring the bag's inner contents would reveal some very old instruments. Time alone had rendered several inoperative. The blood pressure cuff while looking quite useful

would not hold pressure. The stethoscope, a genuine Bowles, showed signs of cracked rubber tubing through which the sound of a heartbeat traveled to the ears.

Other things were all out of date even though useful.

It was a strange awareness when the last item I found was a small black New Testament. "Wait a minute," I thought, "that's not supposed to be there."

That's not a life-saving instrument, nothing that would aid in the extraction of a tooth or soothe a

tooth-ache, or help someone hurting... or is it?

Well, it certainly is old but it's not out of date! It saves lives and souls and sure, it helps people who are hurting, people who are lost, people who are down and out, people who are struggling with one problem after another.

Well, now that I think about it, it should have been in there. This

man of profession felt a need for God's Word to be in his little black bag.

Out of this time capsule came more than just

instruments or tools of the trade. Out of this bag came a revelation, a rebirth of a truth that I had known since I was nine years old — a truth that has not deteriorated with age, is not obsolete, and can bring healing to a hurting soul as well as a nation.

God's Word has and will stand the test of time. Within the contents one can receive healing, experience forgiveness, and find the way to eternal life. It is in itself the most valuable tool of the Great Physician.

With every passing day comes new advances in medical technology, new understandings of the complexities of life and how to better sustain it. However, this doctor realized that there is a knowledge that passes all understanding and in certain situations renders all other instruments useless.

Sure, it needed to be in his bag and it needs to be in our lives on a daily basis. God's Word is true, it is timeless, and it will keep you in touch with the One who wrote the instruction book for life itself. Read it!

(In memoriam, Thomas E. Stout DDS, 1907-1990)





# Baptism leads to persecution in Uganda

JINJA, Uganda (BP) — Hidden by the darkness of the night, the men slipped across the street to Samuel Lubogo's home. The silence was shattered as the intruders beat down the door.

The night of terror began for the Lubogo family when they recognized the intruders as police officers and members of their parish.

Lubogo's wife, Norah, cried as she watched her personal possessions being carted off. One police officer grabbed Lubogo and another handcuffed his eldest son. The two

men were dragged off to jail while the rest of the family was thrown out on the street.

A photograph published in that day's newspaper had shown Lubogo — a high-ranking Church of Uganda official — being baptized at the local Baptist church. The intruders were sent to teach him a lesson.

"That night, all of the people stared at us. They persecuted us just because I was now following the truth," he said. "As I watched what was happening, I worried about my family but I still praised the Lord for considering me worthy."

Lubogo is not the only official from the Church of Uganda to make public decisions for Christ. Since April, more than 50 priests also have professed a faith in Jesus Christ. A spiritual awakening for Uganda is starting in one of the most unlikely places — the Church of Uganda — said International Mission Board missionary Bill Waddle.

The Church of Uganda is an offshoot of the Church of England and was founded in 1875. While the church believes in Jesus Christ and the resurrection, it also adheres to a rigid hierarchy of authority.

"Their stance on the Bible is that you don't need one," Lubogo said. "You don't need one because the bishop will tell you what to believe and how to act."

Lubogo was bishop-elect — next in line to become archbishop — with charge over 3 million parishioners and priests in his diocese when he left the Church of Uganda. He was not only the second in command in the Church of Uganda, but also a prince in the royal family of Uganda.

One Baptist preacher in Lubogo's diocese, Godfrey Mayimba, was praying for a spiritual awakening in the Church of Uganda.

Mayimba grew up in the Church of Uganda and knew its teachings. He was one of the first fruits of Baptist work in his area more than 20 years ago.

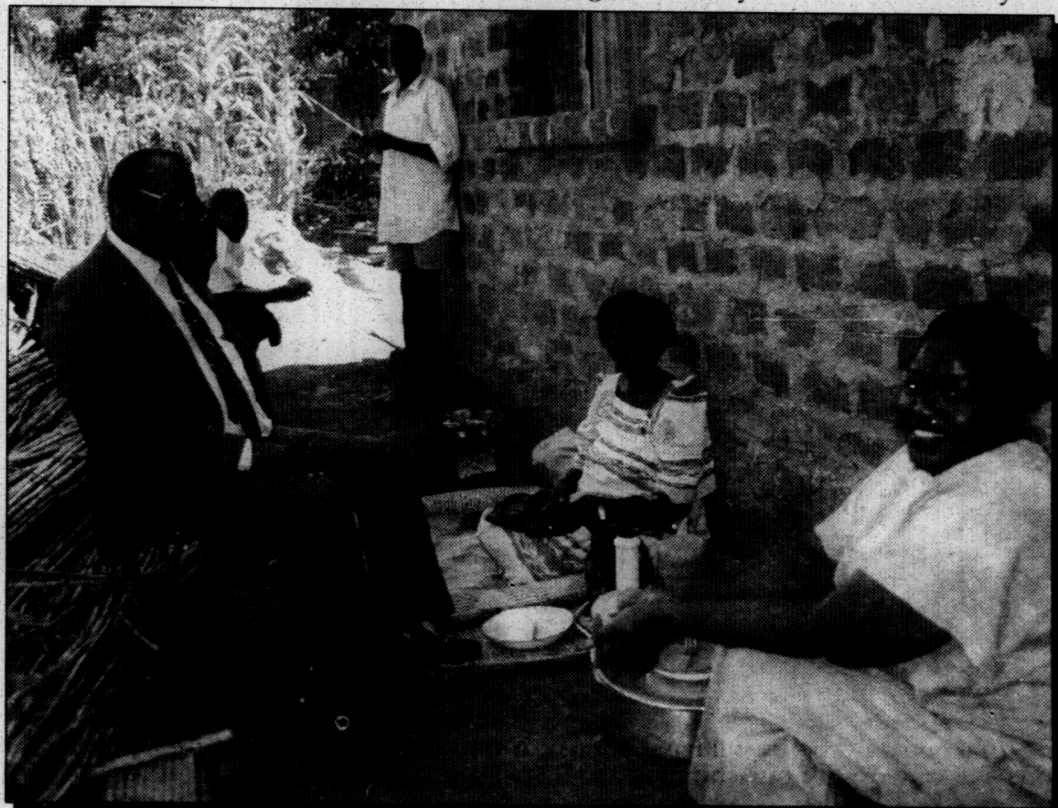
"When I was 14, I felt God telling me to go and lead my people to him," Mayimba said. "I started praying for the Church of Uganda then. Many Ugandans have some sort of tie

to that church and it has such a stronghold on the people."

Mayimba met Lubogo through a local humanitarian program. The two began meeting and talking about the Bible. Lubogo began to ask questions and search out the truth.

"Finally I came to the point where I asked myself how long am I going to sit on this truth," Lubogo said. "The truth haunted me. I had to act on it and acknowledge it — even if the church was against it."

Until Lubogo's baptism, his conversion had been hidden from the community and church. After police stormed Lubogo's home, he spent four days in jail and then was asked to reconsider his decision.



REVIVAL BRINGS PERSECUTION — Samuel Lubogo (left) and his wife, Nora h (right center), were horrified when police officers threw the family out of their home and hauled him off to jail — all because the former high-ranking Church of Uganda official had been baptized at the local Baptist church. Since April, Lubogo and more than 50 Church of Uganda priests have professed faith in Jesus Christ. A spiritual awakening for Uganda is starting in one of the most unlikely places — The Church of Uganda — says International Mission Board missionary Bill Waddle. (BP photo by Sue Sprengle)

## SBHS relocates to new home

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP) — There is good news for all Baptist historians — amateurs and professionals. The Southern Baptist Historical Society (SBHS) is alive and functioning — at a new location, with a new address and a new executive director.

The SBHS is now located in the Baptist Center of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood outside Nashville, in a permanent situation. It was previously located at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Executive Director Charles Deweese said membership numbers about 1,100 and is growing. The society will provide periodic updates, as well as other news of the organization. For those who need services of the Southern Baptist Historical Society: mail — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood 37024-0728; shipping — 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood 37027; telephone — (615) 371-7938; fax (615) 371-7939; e-mail — cdeweese@tnbaptist.org; toll-free telephone — (800) 966-2278.

At the spring meeting, the society approved a revised 1999 budget of \$143,880 and a budget of \$168,480 for the year 2000. A goal of 5,000 new members by 2009 was adopted with goals of \$1 million for endowment and \$320,000 for annual income. Deweese said the society strongly supports the new mission statement recently adopted: "Helping Baptists discover, conserve, assess, and share their history."

The society will continue to offer assistance to Baptist churches, to colleges and universities, and to individuals interested in Baptist history and heritage. Material provided by the Southern Baptist Historical Society includes a variety of pamphlets on Baptist history and heritage, as well as video tapes for use by churches and other Baptist entities. The SBHS membership meets May 25-27 at First Church, Savannah, Ga.



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

AUGUST 19, 1999

VOL. 123

No. 27

Community members are curious about the changes they are seeing in Lubogo and the other priests. Many have approached Lubogo and asked him to start a new church.

"The people want to hear about Jesus Christ. They want to know the truth," Lubogo said. "The problem is that these priests cannot come before their congregations and preach salvation without being fired or their lives threatened."

Efforts are being made to find ways to disciple the 50 priests and support them in their decision, Waddle said. He feels these priests will be important players in spreading the Gospel.

"They are the leaders of the community. People recognize and follow them," he said. "If these priests are serious, the people are going to respond to the message they bring."

Lubogo said many lives already have been changed through the priests' example.

"A revival is taking shape here," Lubogo said. "I would give up my title and wealth again just so I can take part and be used by God."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Baptist Sunday School Board trustees turn aside an effort to fire board president Lloyd Elder. While expressing support for his presidency, the trustees also rebuke him for what they perceive to be his involvement in denominational politics.

### 25 years ago

A new Baptist Student Union (BSU) Center at Delta State College in Cleveland is ready for the beginning of school. The 8,060-square-foot building and parking lot cost approximately \$300,000. Jimmy Breland, veteran of 28 years of student work, is BSU director at Delta State.

### 50 years ago

Clergymen in Laurel hold a community prayer service seeking divine guidance toward settlement of a four-month-old strike which has crippled the city. The service is led by Roy H. Kleiser, pastor of First Methodist Church, and H. J. Rushing, pastor of West Laurel Baptist Church.



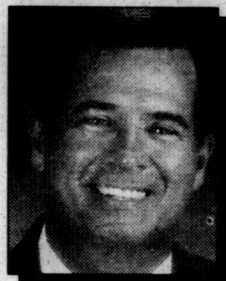
# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## 164th Annual Session, October 26-27, 1999

### First Baptist Church, Jackson

#### FIRST SESSION, OCTOBER 26

8:25 a.m. — Prelude  
8:30 a.m. — Sounding of the Gavel  
*Dean Register*

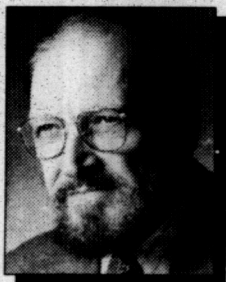


Register

8:35 a.m. — Praise  
*Paul Koonce & Worship Team of Temple Church, Hattiesburg*  
8:50 a.m. — Scripture Celebration  
*Janet Pope*  
Prayer  
*Keith Cating*  
9 a.m. — Organization of Convention  
Recognition/seating of messengers  
Recognition of special guests and  
Correspondence  
*Dean Register*  
Report of Comm. on Order of Business  
*Slater Murphy*

Tellers & Credentials  
Committee  
*Dean Register*

Welcome  
*First Church, Jackson*  
9:10 a.m. — Bible  
Treasure  
*Calvin Miller*



9:25 a.m. — Report  
of Committee on Committees  
*Charles Pickering*

9:30 a.m. — Presentation of Resolutions  
9:40 a.m. — Congregational praise  
*Paul Koonce*

9:45 a.m. — Celebration Moment  
*Darco Velichkovski*

10 a.m. — Convention Board report  
*Jerry Mixon*

10:10 a.m. — Praise  
*Paul Koonce & Worship Team*

10:15 a.m. — Message  
*Fred Luter*  
10:40 a.m. — Election of president  
*Dean Register*



Luter

11 a.m. — Praise  
*Temple Church Worship Team*

11:05 a.m. — President's Address  
*Dean Register*

11:35 a.m. — Benediction  
*Bill Kirkpatrick*

#### SECOND SESSION, OCTOBER 26

1:30 p.m. — Choral praise  
*Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Laurel*  
1:40 p.m. — Sounding of Gavel  
*Kenneth Rhodes*

Congregational praise  
*Jimmy Little*  
Scripture Celebration  
*Janet Pope*  
Prayer  
*June Scoggins*

1:50 p.m. — Results of election of  
president  
*Dean Register*  
(followed by second ballot, if needed)

1:55 p.m. — Celebration Moment  
*Nagen Bellare*

2:10 p.m. — Bible Treasure  
*Calvin Miller*

2:25 p.m. — Christian Action  
Commission report  
*Paul Jones*

2:35 p.m. — Business session  
*Dean Register*

Presentation of 2000 budget  
*Gary Richardson*

Election of convention officers  
Presentation of resolutions  
Miscellaneous business  
*Dean Register*

3 p.m. — Congregational praise  
*Jimmy Little*

3:05 p.m. — Baptist Children's  
Village report  
*Ronny Robinson*

3:15 p.m. — Business session  
*Dean Register*

Election of convention officers  
*Dean Register*

Constitution & Bylaws Comm. report  
Miscellaneous business

3:50 p.m. — Congregational praise  
*Jimmy Little*

3:55 p.m. — Board of Ministerial  
Education report  
*Joseph T. Campbell*

4 p.m. — Choral  
praise  
*Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Laurel*

4:15 p.m. —  
Convention sermon  
*Randy Turner*



Turner

4:45 p.m. — Benediction  
*Ed Abel*

#### THIRD SESSION, OCTOBER 26

6:25 p.m. — Instrumental and  
choral praise  
*Mississippi Singing Churchmen*

6:35 p.m. — Sounding of Gavel  
*Dean Register*

6:40 p.m. — Choral praise  
*Mississippi Singing Churchmen*

7 p.m. — Congregational praise  
*L. Graham Smith*

Scripture Celebration  
*Janet Pope*  
Prayer  
*Nancy Aulds*

7:10 p.m. — Final presentation of  
resolutions

7:15 p.m. — Recognition of guests,  
new workers, and missionaries  
*Dean Register*

7:30 p.m. — Partnership Missions report  
*Paul Harrell*

7:50 p.m. — Congregational praise  
*L. Graham Smith*

7:55 p.m. — Choral  
praise  
*Mississippi Singing Churchmen*

8 p.m. — Mississippi  
Baptist Convention  
Board emphasis  
*Jim Futral*



Futral

8:45 p.m. — Benediction  
*Tim Glaze*

#### FOURTH SESSION, OCTOBER 27

8:25 a.m. — Choral praise  
*Mississippi College Concert Singers*

8:35 a.m. — Sounding of Gavel  
*Paul Blanchard*

8:40 a.m. — Choral praise  
*Mississippi College Concert Singers*

8:50 a.m. — Congregational praise  
*Richard Joiner*

Scripture Celebration  
*Janet Pope*  
Prayer  
*Lloyd Lunceford*

9 a.m. — Celebration Moment  
*Bruce Brady Sr.*

9:15 a.m. — Memorial Service  
*Louis Smith*

9:25 a.m. — Christian Education report  
*Randy Turner*

9:30 a.m. — Choral praise  
*Mississippi College Concert Singers*

9:35 a.m. — Introduction of college  
presidents  
*Dean Register*

Mississippi College report  
*Howell W. Todd*

9:40 a.m. — Business session  
*Dean Register*

Adoption of 2000 budget  
*Gary Richardson*

Report of Comm. on Nominations  
*Jay Richardson*

Time, Place, Preacher Comm. report  
*Wayne VanHorn*

Resolutions Comm. report  
Miscellaneous business

10:30 a.m. — Congregational praise  
*Richard Joiner*

10:35 a.m. — Choral praise  
*Mississippi College Concert Singers*

10:45 a.m. —  
Message  
*Leslie Clark*

11:15 a.m. —  
Benediction  
*Tom McLaughlin*

*Clark*



# Growing Churches Conf. held at Gulfshore

By Harvey Ellis, consultant  
MBCB Discipleship & Family Min.

A total of 215 people attended the Growing Churches Through Discipleship Conference July 29-31 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. The conference was sponsored by the equipping team at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Roy Edgemon, director of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Division at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, was the worship leader. He spoke during the July 29-30 evening services.

Gordon Alford, minister of music at First Church, Vancleave, his wife Donna, and daughter Lacy were the music leaders for the weekend.

In addition to Edgemon and the Alfords, worship services included a demonstration by the 1999 Youth Bible Drill finalists, who challenged attendees with their Bible knowledge and drilling skills.

Four of the nine finalists in the 1999 State Speaker's Tournament — winner Jeremy Johnson, member of First Church, Clinton; second-place finisher Matt Treadway, member of First Church, Clinton; along with Karen Howell, member of Bethel Church, Brandon; and Rob Dowdle, member of First Church, Columbus — also

spoke at the worship services. The four speakers elicited a commendation from Edgemon for their impressive performances.

Ken Walters, associate pastor at First Church, Picayune, received the Friend of Discipleship Training Award, presented by Marcus Peagler, director of the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM).

Breakout sessions at the conference included:

- Charles Davis, director of missions for Pike Association, McComb, on Deacon Ministry in the Local Church.

- Steve Williams, leadership development consultant in the LifeWay Discipleship and Family Ministry Department in Nashville, on Innovative Approaches for Discipleship Training.

- David Lee, director of the church growth and services division of the Baptist Convention of Maryland-



The Alfords

Delaware, on Visionary Leadership for Ministers.

- Various conferences on Sunday School, discipleship training, family ministry, evangelism, Woman's Missionary Union, Men's Ministries, youth ministry, and other topics.

The 2000 Growing Churches Through Discipleship Conference will be held July 27-29 at Gulfshore Assembly. For more information, contact DFM at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: hgeellis@mbcb.org.



DISCIPLESHIP'S FRIEND — Ken Walters (right), associate pastor at First Church, Picayune, accepts the Friend of Discipleship Training Award from Marcus Peagler, director of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, during the Growing Churches Through Discipleship Conference. (BR special photos by Kelly Dunn)

## PASTOR SEARCH

All across our state there are churches without pastors. God designed the church to be a people of God on mission for him under the loving hand and leadership of a pastor; yet, many of our churches are without pastors. Recently I was in one association where 14 churches were pastorless. I was asked recently if it is true that we have more churches without pastors than ever in our history. I do not know if that is true or not because there are actually no records, past or present, that would reveal such information.

This I do know — we have a huge number of churches looking for a pastor, and this is not just in Mississippi. Many states are experiencing the same thing if the calls I receive, from churches outside our state asking about some of our in-state pastors, are any indication.

What has created this condition? Is there a shortage of pastors? Possibly. Are churches overly demanding, even "picky" and unwilling to settle for anything less than a spectacular leader? Possibly. Do preachers have an overblown sense of importance and are they unwilling to go serve some places? Possibly. Whatever the case, in this atmosphere where churches are searching for pastors — and some pastors would like to go to another place of service — some things need to be remembered:

**1. Jesus is intensely interested and intimately involved**



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**in the pastor selection process.** Jesus is the Lord of the church and he must guide, from both directions, in the process. If a pastor tries to manipulate, maneuver, or weasel his way into a place of service, he is doing so to his own detriment. Jesus can and does get people where he needs them to be. A search committee is not a corporate, religious headhunter group out to make the best deal, for the most talented, at the lowest price, pastor available. Neither is the pastor a well-packaged, spiritual CEO putting his gifts on the market and negotiating for the best deal. If so, both will fail.

**2. God is responsive to people who truly desire his guidance.** I am convinced that a part of the pastor search hinges on the church and committee coming to a place of deep desire before God, wanting him to intervene. To Israel, God listened when they cried for a leader and he brought Moses on the scene. In the New Testament, a cry came from Macedonia and God provided a leader. I have known of congregations who have thought, and

some who have actually said, that anybody would jump at the chance to come and be their pastor, only to enter into the search and find out that it was not so. It is important for a church to experience "coming before God" in total dependence on him to provide a leader, and when they do they experience what only God can provide.

**3. I believe that the time without a pastor can be a learning experience of great importance.** It is not unusual for that time between pastors to be a special interval of growth, testing, learning, and renewing within a congregation. How many times has it happened that a church has lost its pastor and wondered what in the world they would do only to respond to say, "We have got to stick together. Many of us who have become lax and 'uninvolved' are going to have to take hold of the work and be responsible for things that we had not even considered." At times, in retrospect, they begin to realize how blessed they were and they may even broaden their vision realizing how much needs to be done.

Invariably there are some people in the congregation who come to a new level of understanding and involvement concerning the work of the Lord.

**4. Finally, there are the sensitivity and integrity issues that must be maintained.** Search committees need to understand that their inquiries and investigations can be disturbing and disruptive to a pastor, his family, and his church. That may be a part of the landscape of this process but it should be kept at a minimum. There is no need in upsetting 25 different groups when you are only interested in one man.

At the same time, the sensitivity and integrity issues apply to pastors who need to take care as they deal with churches. Dealing with pastor search committees should not be a source of "ego boosting" in order to flaunt how many congregations want you to come and be their pastor. There are always steps in the process of developing a relationship with a search committee and congregation, and unless a pastor is serious in discerning that God is guiding him in that direction, he ought to halt the process long before it gets into the enlarged public arena.

One thing is for certain — the Baptists' pastor search effort is varied, spiritually challenging, and a great opportunity for the Lord to do a marvelous work among his people.

Let's continue to seek the Lord, pray for one another, and move forward.

## Church media library conf. set Aug. 27-28

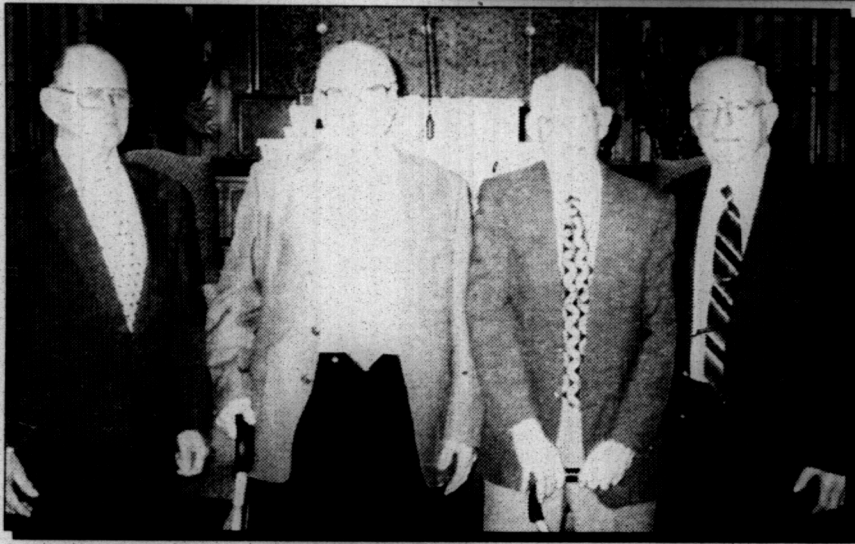
The Jones Area Media Ministry, a ministry of Jones Association in Laurel, is sponsoring a conference for church media library directors and staff Aug. 27-28 at West Laurel Church, Laurel. Peggy Tacon, media library director at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., and a consultant for the media library unit of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will conduct three sessions:

- Classification Concepts for Church Media Libraries.
- Ministry Concepts for Church Media Libraries.
- Promotion Concepts for Church Media Libraries.

The conference begins at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 27 and concludes after the afternoon session on Aug. 28. There is no fee for participation. There is no charge for the light lunch on Aug. 28, but reservations are strongly recommended. For more information and to make reservations, contact Jones Association at (601) 640-8114, or Alane Knight at (601) 428-1366.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Calvary Church, Meridian,** on May 30 honored four men as lifetime deacons. They are (pictured from left) R. Dan Hutchinson, J. C. Rainey, B. F. "Buck" Flaherty, and Clouis McKenzie. These four men have a total service of 143 years.

**Lee Walton** is now serving as associate pastor/youth minister at First Church, Bronson, Fla. He and his wife Elizabeth recently received their BA degrees from Florida Baptist Theological College (FBTC) in Graceville. Their home church is Woodville Heights in Jackson.



**Larry, Meredith, and Rita Futral**

**Larry and Rita Futral** are pictured with their daughter, Meredith, a journeyman serving as Librarian for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia. She has been serving in Zambia for a year and a half and will be returning home in December. In June and July, First Church, Ocean Springs, where Larry Futral serves as minister of music and business administration, sent the Futrals to visit their daughter. While there, he spoke in

chapel at the seminary and at an annual general meeting out in the "bush" near the Luangwa River. He also led a conference on music and worship at the Libala Baptist Church for the Lusaka Baptist Association.



**New Hope Church, Sumrall,** ordained Don Clark, Sammy Herrin, Hershel Coulter, and Kelton Ingram as deacons on May 16. A reception was held in their honor following the ordination service.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Salem Heights, Laurel:** Aug. 22-25; evangelistic crusade; Sunday, 10:10 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bailey Smith, evangelist; Luke Garrett, music evangelist.

**Star, Star:** Aug. 22-26; Sunday, Sunday School at 9 a.m., worship at 10 a.m., lunch at 11:15 a.m., discipleship training at 5 p.m., worship at 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Shelby Neese, Pinelake Church, Brandon, worship leader; Vic Bowman, pastor.

**Rocky Point, Carthage:** Aug. 22-25; 7 p.m.; Don Cook, Remus Church, evangelist; 11 a.m. services will be led by William Wright, pastor.

**Horseshoe (Holmes):** Aug. 29-Sept. 1; guest speakers are Joe Hill on Sunday; Shannon Davis on Mon.; Rob Futral on Tues.; and Larry Edwards, Tchula, on Wed.; Kerry Burroughs, pastor.

**First, Nicholson, Picayune:** Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Jack Glaze, evangelist; Johnny Dossett, music; Danny Nance, pastor.

**Lake Harbor, Brandon:** Aug. 25-29; Wed.-Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Bible study, 9:45 a.m. and worship, 11 p.m.; Gene Henderson, Brandon, guest speaker; John Moore, Brandon, music; W. Mark Moore, pianist; H. Cliff Davis, pastor.

**First, Morton:** Aug. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. with refreshments at 6:45 and 7:30 a.m.; Billy Smith, Christ Above all Ministries, evangelist; Joe Styron, Kilmichael, music.

**Pleasant Hill, Quitman:** Aug. 29; One Day, Youth Alive revival with Bill Britt of the Bill Britt Ministries, Dallas, Texas; services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Gene Pickern, pastor.

**Beulah Church, Inverness:** Aug. 29-Sept. 1; lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m., The Bibletones, guest singers; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Townsend, Georgia, evangelist; Danny and Pam Guthrie, Belzoni, music; Robert C. Ragland, pastor.

**Wesson, Wesson:** Sept. 3-5;

youth revival; Fri., 10 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45 a.m.; Rob Turner, summer Centrifuge youth evangelist and Sumthin' Real a Praise and Worship Band leading the revival; David Culpepper, pastor; for more information call the church office at (601) 643-5722.

## Homecomings

**Bethel (Copiah):** Aug. 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner following services; 1:30 p.m., singing; Gary White, Park Hill, Jackson, speaker; Clay Foster, music.

**Short Creek (Yazoo):** Aug. 22; 80th year; Norris Ables, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall following services; David Brooks, pastor.

**New Hope, Tupelo:** Aug. 22; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; Rickey Blythe, guest speaker; Jeff Chamblee, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

**First of Glendale, Hattiesburg:** Aug. 22; 10 a.m.; Doug Rouse, former pastor, speaker; Heaven's Jubilee in concert at 1:30 p.m.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**RATE:** 60 cents per word, \$6 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

**FREE PEWS!** First Church of Richland is renovating and is looking to donate 74 pews in many different lengths. For more information call Donnie Tate 601-977-8000 or fax 601-977-8009. **CFI — PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS** Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

**ATTENTION:** committed couples to work full-time with "at-risk" children in residential setting. Opportunities throughout Alabama. Minimum HS diploma. Benefits include BC/BS PMD, TDA, life insurance, sick leave, vacation, living expenses. Call 1-800-548-4256 or write to Box 24009 Montgomery, AL 36124-000.

**CHURCH RETREAT OPEN YEAR ROUND.** Panama City Beach, Florida. Choice dates available this summer. Reasonable rates, modern dorm facilities, 300 ft. from Gulf of Mexico. A ministry of First Baptist Church 1-850-234-0488 for details. Website: [www.fbcpcb.com](http://www.fbcpcb.com) E-mail address: [fbcpcb@panacom.com](mailto:fbcpcb@panacom.com).

**FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH** of Floyd Knobs, Indiana, has immediate full-time staff positions open in the areas of youth and music. If interested, please send resume with a cover letter to: Attention Personnel Committee, First Southern Baptist Church, 4631 Lakeview Drive, Floyd Knobs, Indiana 47119.

**SUMMER VACATION HOUSE** available to Christian families, weekly rate savings. 3 BR on Panama City Beach, 1/2 block from Gulf. For details call First Baptist Church Panama City Beach, Florida. 1-850-234-0488. Website: [www.fbcpcb.com](http://www.fbcpcb.com) E-mail address: [fbcpcb@panacom.com](mailto:fbcpcb@panacom.com).

**FOR SALE:** 1993 Metrotrams Mini-Bus, 25 passenger — Rear and front A/C — Ford 460 EFT Engine, \$25,000 — Mileage 90,000. Phone 601-763-7571.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479; (601) 722-9000.

**FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME** — Tallahassee needs a husband-wife team to be primary residential staff for the girls home. Excellent salary/benefits. Work for 2 weeks on duty, 1 week off. Come minister in the lives of children! Call Pam at 1-850-878-1458.

**GOLF COURSE VILLA** in beautiful North Carolina mountains. Weekly, monthly rentals, 2BR, 2BA, screened porch, fireplace. Furnished linens included. Debbie 1-800-499-9310.

**CHURCHPAGES.COM** — Now with new QuickStart. Your church, whether large or small, can now have a website. Easy templated pages. Just need your church's information. We create, maintain, and update site for you. Only \$100 one time set up, plus \$15 per month maintenance. A ministry service of Paul and Carla Mason, "...to help create a larger presence for the Lord on the Internet." Go to [www.churchpages.com](http://www.churchpages.com) to see, or call (601) 373-5300.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**MINISTER OF YOUTH** position available at First Baptist Church of Purvis, MS. For more information call the church at (601) 794-8551 or send resume to P.O. Box 246, Purvis, MS 39475.

**PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER.** Sunday is only day of service required. Out-of-town applicants welcomed. Weekend accommodations will be provided. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Nina Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073. Call 601-932-2542 or 601-939-2542.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC** needed accepting resumes mail to: Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39569. 228-769-1338.

**Custom Church Interiors, Inc.**

**PEWS**

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering  
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights  
Painting • Baptistries • Steeples  
Complete Renovations

**1-800-654-1294**  
Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.

**Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622**  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27

August 19, 1999

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

## GAMBLING WITH AMERICA'S FUTURE

September 24-26, 1999

The Hilton Hotel and  
Conference Center  
Jackson, Mississippi

*The Sixth Annual Meeting of the National Coalition AGAINST Legalized Gambling and the National Coalition AGAINST Gambling Expansion*

### Program Personalities

The annual meeting of NCALG and NCAGE will attract some of America's leading authorities on the problems, politics, and personalities of gambling in America. Speakers who have accepted invitations include:

- **Kay James**, chairperson of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission
- **Professor Phil Cook**, Duke University economics professor and co-author of *Selling Hope: State Lotteries In America*

- **Ben Toledano**, attorney and prolific author on gambling
- **Trish Arndt**, attorney and authority on Indian gambling
- **Larry Braidfoot**, founding executive director of NCALG and social ethicist

These other experts on gambling in America:

**Diane Berlin**  
**John Eades**  
**Tom Grey**  
**Dan Ireland**  
**Paul Jones**  
**Larry Page**  
**Barbara Knickelbein**

Registration Form: Please detach and mail with check payable to NCALG  
(Please type or print clearly)

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS? IF SO,  
PLEASE INDICATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check the appropriate registration fee:

	# People	
Full Conference fee (includes Friday banquet and Saturday dinner) @ \$95	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____	
One day only fee (circle day):		
Friday Saturday Sunday @ \$45	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____	
Student @ \$50	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____	
Student (one day rate) @ \$25		
Friday night banquet @ \$25	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____	
Saturday noon dinner @ \$25	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____	
<b>TOTAL \$</b> _____		

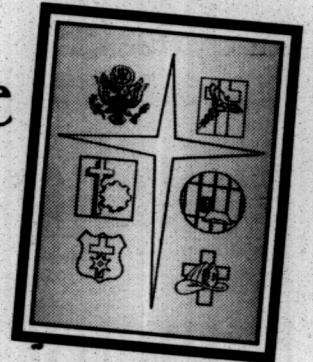
Enclose check payable to and mail to: NCALG, 831 South King Street, Suite E, Leesburg, VA 20175-3903, 703-443-9362, 1-800-664-2680, www.ncalg.org  
Christian Action Commission, MBCB 1-601-968-3800, 1-800-748-1651

## Equipping Volunteer Chaplains In Pastoral Care

September 17, 1999

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Health Caring Center for Women  
1405 North State Street, Suite 402, Jackson  
One block north of Miss. Baptist Medical Center (park in rear)



### PROGRAM: PASTORAL CARE IN CONTEXT Applied Ministry Skills and Focus

#### REGISTRATION FORM EQUIPPING VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS IN PASTORAL CARE September 17, 1999

Registration fee of \$5 per person enclosed (includes lunch and materials)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please register by September 3, 1999  
Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Richard Brogan, Chaplaincy, P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more information, call Richard Brogan, 1-800-748-1651

*Sponsored by*  
Missions Extension & Associational Administration  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association  
Pastoral Care Department, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc.

## State Handbell Leadership Seminar

September 10-11, 1999

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison

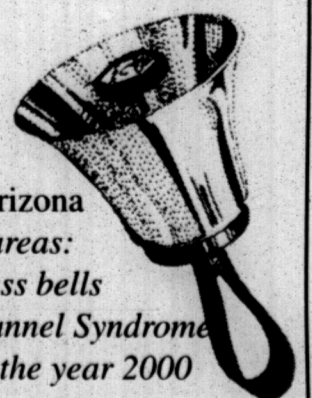
Friday 5:30 - Saturday, noon

Clinician: **Douglas Benton**

Bellmaster, Northern University, Flagstaff, Arizona

The seminar is designed to assist leaders in these areas:

- **Advanced Techniques**
- **Conducting Handbells**
- **Ensemble/Solo Ringing**
- **Ringling of large bass bells**
- **Avoiding Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**
- **Festival music for the year 2000**





# G•R•O•W

August 30, 7 - 9 p.m.

Central Baptist Church, Meridian

(formerly South Side Baptist Church) 2511 C Street  
From I-20, take the 22nd Ave. exit, go north on 22nd Ave.,  
turn left on C Street, go 3 blocks and church is on the left.

**Leader: Jerry Tidwell**

Author and developer of

*Outreach Teams That Win: G.R.O.W.*

For more info contact the Sunday School Department,  
MBCB (601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## Outreach Teams That Win: G.R.O.W.

"G.R.O.W." is based on Tidwell's phenomenally successful outreach approach. Under this proven-effective plan church members are asked to commit just one evening each month to outreach...with several different avenues from which they can choose. You will not want to miss this opportunity!

- No pre-registration required • No cost for the conference
- No child care provided

Jerry Tidwell is the pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn. He has a bachelor of science in secondary education from the University of North Alabama, a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The churches he has pastored include: Garner Baptist Church in Weatherford, Tex.; Santo First Baptist Church in Santo, Tex.; Grace Baptist Church in Tulleahoma, Tenn.



## Sunday School Leadership Training

Two great training opportunities now in two locations!

**"Gulfshore North"**

September 10-11

Calvary Baptist Church  
Tupelo

Special Guests:

David Grumbach

David Prevost

Blue Mountain BSU Drama Team

For information  
contact the Sunday School  
Department, MBCB 601-968-3800 or  
1-800-748-1651

## BUDDY GRIFFIN

& HIS BANJO



## State Senior Adult Rally

FBC, Brandon

Thursday, Sept. 2, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

- 8:30 a.m. Registration (\$1 at the door)
- 9:00 Joyful Juggers Band, Meridian; Buddy Griffin, Houston, Tex.
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 Conferences  
Humor is the Best Medicine, Led by Buddy Griffin  
Dealing with Grief, Led by Claire Pennington  
Alexandria, La.  
Leadership, Led by J. Gerris Jordan, Baton Rouge, La.
- 11:30 Dismiss

For more info contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB (601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## Outreach Strategy Tour

October 11 • North Greenwood BC, Greenwood  
October 12 • Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale

### Schedule

- 9 a.m.-noon Outreach Strategy for Pastors and Staff
- Afternoon Individual Consultations Available
- 7-9 p.m. Reaching through Sunday School/ Age Group Outreach Training

FACULTY: Preschool • Linda Reeves, Children • Judy Haney, Youth  
• Mark Lott, Adult • Larry Salter, Bob Buckner, General Officer  
• John Clendinning, David Wills

For more info or brochure, contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB  
Phone 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 locally  
Email: [ss@mbcb.org](mailto:ss@mbcb.org)  
Register online: [www.mbcb.org/ss](http://www.mbcb.org/ss)

Jesus modeled it. God commanded it. Educators taught it. Growing churches know the secret. And now there is a conference that can help you and your church determine, define, design and develop an Outreach Strategy for your church. The Outreach Strategy Awareness Tour is designed to help pastors and staff develop a strategy for reaching the community, and for all Sunday School leaders to increase awareness of the need for following the Great Commission in reaching others for Christ.

## "Glorieta on the Gulf"

September 17-18

First Baptist Church  
Gulfport

For information  
or to register, call or write:  
Gulf Coast Baptist Association,  
P. O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505  
228-832-4311

Sponsored by:  
Gulf Coast Baptist Association  
Jackson County Baptist Association  
Pearl River Baptist Association  
Sunday School Department,  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## Divorce Recovery Seminar

September 24 & 25

Canaan Baptist Church, Columbus

(601) 327-3771

**"No Cost"**

with James Haynes,  
Minister of Counseling

and Singles, First Baptist Church, Biloxi

Child and Youth Programs will be available on Saturday,  
September 25 from 9 a.m.-noon.  
Please call for church reservation.

Sponsored by the Golden Triangle Association and the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.



# STATE CHOIR LEADERSHIP CLINIC

ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON  
AUGUST 20-21

- PRESCHOOL
- CHILDREN
- YOUTH



## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

6:00 p.m. ...Registration  
6:30 .....Classes  
8:00 .....Break  
8:30 .....Classes  
9:30 .....Adjourn

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

8:00 a.m. ...Registration  
8:30 .....Classes  
10:00 .....Break  
10:30 .....Classes  
Noon .....Adjourn

COST: \$5  
NO REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED

OLDER CHILDREN  
Eileen Jones Straw

COORDINATOR  
Anita Wagoner

YOUTH  
Slater Murphy

PRESCHOOL  
Sandy Stephenson

GRADES 1-6

YOUNGER CHILDREN  
Linda Dutton

Sarah Talley  
Gloria Speed  
Katrina Marler

For more information contact the Church Music Dept., MBCB, 601-968-3800, 1-800-748-1651

## 1999 North Mississippi Women's Prayer Retreat "When Gifts are Transformed"

Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko (601)289-9637

September 10-11, 4:00 p.m. Friday - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

Deborah Brunt - Bible Study Facilitator

Paula Smith - Missions Facilitator

### Registration

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Women \_\_\_\_\_ X cost per person=Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$30 lodging, 3 meals and registration

Deadline: Friday, September 3

Mail to WMU, Women's Prayer Retreat, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Bring linens, towels, flashlight, walking shoes, insect repellent, notebook, Bible, etc.

## COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE

September 24-25, 1999

Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson

Program Personalities

- Dennis Lee, drama • Debbie Wohler, Lake Tahoe missionary
- Chuck Bentley, musician • Darko Velichkovski, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

## SUMMER MISSIONARIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Mississippi BSU Summer Missionaries  
meet vital needs in places  
where workers are in short supply.

23 July 1999

Mr. Weaver McCracken  
Department of Student Work  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Mr. McCracken:

My wife and I are writing this letter to say Thanks to you and the Mississippi Department of Student Work for sending us Summer Missionaries: Sally Jean Wilson, Christy Pearson and Rachelle White. Your state and your office has sent us many Summer Missionaries over the years and we praise the Lord for each of them and their willingness to spend their summer here, helping us in our VBS activities. Speaking on behalf of my church, First Baptist of Upper Lake, Ca., we would be in dire straights if they were unable to come.

My wife and I were blessed to have them stay in our home during their work at our church. We can truly say that their conduct, friendliness and overall demeanor was superb. We have raised five children and would be proud to call these young women our daughters.

A little background: When the missionaries came to our home they lived in our motor home, located next to the house. They were given the run of the house also. My wife had just had an operation for breast cancer and she would not be able to do very much during her recovery. The young ladies did not require any assistance. They treated us with the greatest of respect and gave us assistance in every activity. They took upon themselves the task of cooking meals for us and cleaning up.

We know that the Good Lord has blessed us with their presence in our lives and that HE has great things for each of them. Their parents must be wonderfully proud of how their work in raising these daughters has paid off.

If you are ever out this way, we would love for you to look us up and visit for awhile.

In Christ,

*Barbara West*  
Rog and Barbara West

Mississippi Baptist  
Student Union

An Investment in Our Future



Pray this day for...

Aug. 20 - Sept. 2, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

#### Praying Effectively

To pray effectively we must want what God wants - that and only that is to pray in the will of God. And no petition made in the will of God was ever refused. This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have whatever we have asked of Him (1 John 5:14-15)

--Touching Heaven in Prayer by A.W. Tozer

Pray for the Kenya Baptist Theological College in Limuru. A new degree program is being started in partnership with a Baptist university in the U.S. Pray that Kenyan Baptists will support the college and that all students wishing to attend will find a way.

Michael Wilson, state director for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/ Delaware, asks prayer for the masses of people in Maryland and Delaware that need a relationship with Jesus Christ. Twenty-five percent of all Americans live in the northeast.

For the Mississippi Baptist Convention Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building; Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting, Baptist Building.

On August 1, missionary Tim Tidenberg and several Massai Christians in Tanzania faced an angry mob of Maasai warriors attacking the Olopuko Baptist Church. One Christian man was beaten. Pray for that little band of Christians as they continue to witness.

Missionaries Don and Mary Alice Dolifka in Samburu, Kenya, write: "Praise God for the rain which we received last week! The grass is green again so the men are returning with their cattle. Pray for these men, as they become active again in preaching near their homes."

For Church and Associational Leadership Training, Camp Garaywa (WMU); State Preschool/Children's/Youth Choir Clinic, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Church Music).

Missionaries in Argentina say "Thank you" to all who prayed for the 28 volunteers from Oklahoma who came to Rosano as part of the 'Harvest 2000' partnership project in May. During the week 142 prayed to receive Christ. Pray for these new Christians as they are discipled.

Ten Million Dollar Sunda (Stewardship Emphasis), Sameh Gadallah is pastor of the Arabic Baptist Church, Antioch, Tenn. Pray for funds to purchase a van to transport children and the elderly. Pray for Sam as he leads the congregation.

Many Chinese people who live outside of China have not heard or even had a chance to hear the gospel. Pray that God will call out laborers for developing and implementing strategies to reach Chinese residing in the 11 countries throughout Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Praise the Lord for two college students who are the first converts from an unreached people group in the Philippines! Pray for their growth as the International Baptist Church in Manila disciples them.

Please pray that God will call out ministers and evangelists sufficient to lead over 100 Baptist churches and 100 mission points in the Republic of Panama. Pray for the many bivocational ministers who must work six days a week.

Pray for the State Adult Rally, FBC, Brandon (Discipleship and Family Ministry). A woman in Tianjin, China, who has been a believer for five years is now ready to get rid of all the idols in her home. Pray that she will put her trust fully in the Lord Jesus.

Walailak University in Thailand is one of the biggest Universities in southern Asia. It just started two years ago, so there are not many students yet. Pray for guidance in beginning a student ministry at this new university.

Malaysia has 1,421,000 Christians, according to recent research. Christianity is the nation's fastest growing religion despite the Muslim population's higher birth rate. Pray for the two new evangelical churches being planted there each week.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

4-90  
MR. MICAH S. MCCALL  
c/o Dr. and Mrs. John McCall  
303 Camp Garaywa Road, Clinton, MS 39056  
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture  
SERVE IN TANZANIA

4-90  
MISS ANN MARIE PEVEY  
2182 Hwy. 446, Skene, MS 38730  
Parents: Frank, Jr., & Jerry Anne, Mission Administration  
SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA

5-86  
MISS JESSICA L. BAKER  
Apartado 61-74, Guadalajara, Jalisco, 44360, MEXICO  
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry

8-90  
MISS MELISSA K. SHEARER  
Apartado 208, Huaraz, PERU  
Parents: Kevin & Pam, General Evangelism

13-85  
ANGELA JOY STAMPS  
Apartado 2340, Managua, NICARAGUA  
Parents: Keith and Penny Stamps, General Evangelism

14-83  
MISS VICTORIA L. HARRISON  
Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS  
Parents: Frank, III & Phoebe, Youth Evangelism

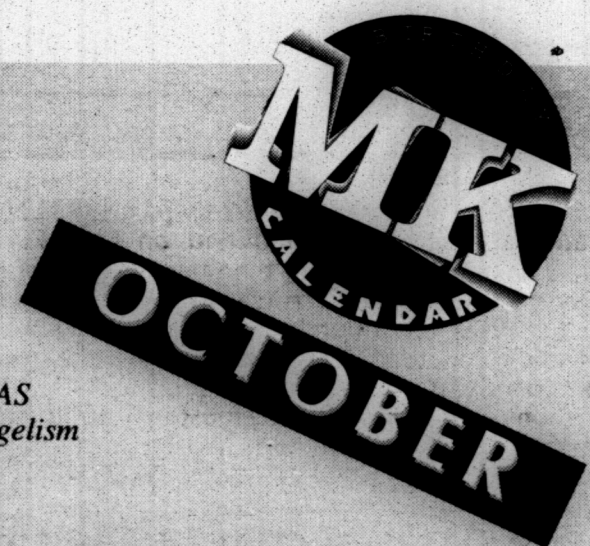
19-95  
MELODY BAILEY  
Box GUA 746, 8424 NW 56th Street, Miami, FL 33166  
Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Promotion  
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

27-83  
MISS HANNAH M. GRAY  
Rua Professor Manuel Ferreira, 171 Apt 1108, Gavea 22451-030  
Rio de Janeiro/RJ, BRAZIL, Parents: Tony & Karen, Music Promotion

28-88  
MISS CHELSEA L. FUNDERBURK  
01 B.P. 6491, Abidjan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)  
Parents: Rickey & Lori, Mission Administration

29-85  
MR. TRAVIS RACEY  
Massmann 350, Temuco, CHILE  
Parents: Michael & Annette, General Evangelism

30-91  
MISS VIRGINIA HUTCHINSON  
PO Box 2376, Sere Kunda, The Gambia, WEST AFRICA  
Parents: Michael & Lynn, Church Planters



HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

"How Shall They Hear?" is the theme for the third annual National Preschool-Children's Convention (NPCC), to be held on Oct. 18-21 at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Participants will choose from three tracks of training: leadership, weekday early education, and music. Conference topics include: "Brain Development," "Knowing How to Confront," "Discipline" and "New Ministers Workshop." Registration before Sept. 1 is \$175. After Sept. 1, the fee increases to \$200. To register, call (800) 254-2022.



Youth of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



First Church, Lauderdale, held a special note burning ceremony on June 6. The church had completely paid off its debt. In 1968 the old sanctuary was completed and on Oct. 7, 1973, First Church was constituted. Resident members grew in number and it was soon evident that the church was in need of a larger and new sanctuary. In 1989 the church began the Together We Build Program. The old sanctuary was converted into classrooms and the present sanctuary was completed in March of 1992. Participating in the ceremony were Gene Ross, Houston Garrett, Connie Ross, Bernice Mosher, Tom Harrison, minister of music, and Ken Brown. Jerry Bishop is pastor.

Youth from North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, attended Centrifuge at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on July 31-Aug. 5. There were two decisions made for Christ and four rededications. Pictured (front row) Max Brooks, youth minister; (second row) Ashley King and Josh Davis; (third row) Matt Miller, Katie Kyle, Leslie Kyle, Wyatt Clark, Amanda Bowers, Kari McCorkle, Kelly Smith, and Laura Blount; (back row) Chris Stephenson, Tripp Davis, Daniel Walker, Chris Daves, Jason Clark, and Dustin Dunbar. Not pictured, Lauren Prewitt and Shea Wessman.

"McCall Day" will be held at Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, on Aug. 22. John G. McCall will share during the 11 a.m. worship hour. Lunch will be served at noon. Dennis and Margaret McCall, missionaries to Tanzania, East Africa, will be in charge of the afternoon service beginning at 1:30 p.m. Ken Kirk is pastor.

Baptist Health Systems and local physicians will be holding three free prostate screening events in September. The screenings will include a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood test and physical exam. Screenings will be held on Sept. 16, Mississippi Urology Clinic, 1421 N. State Street; Sept. 21, Baptist Medical Clinic, 106 New Prospect St., Clinton; and Sept. 23, Baptist Medical Center, 1225 N. State St., Jackson. All events will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. To register, or for more information, call 948-6262 or (800) 948-6262.



Beulah Church, Inverness, will have special services to dedicate its new church building, 2-4 p.m. on Aug. 22. Robert Ragland is pastor.

Lamar Baptist Seminary Extension Department is offering the following courses this fall: Survey of Baptist Missions taught by Tommy Odom, registration and first class on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.; and 1 & 2 Thessalonians (Winter Bible Study for 2000) taught by Glenn Davis, registration and first class on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. Registration and class meetings will take place at the Lamar Baptist Associational Building located on Hwy. 589, Hattiesburg. For further information, contact Glenn Davis at (601) 758-4738 or 758-4589.

A group from Liberty Church, Carroll Association, recently completed a mission trip to Kiowa, Colo. The group conducted Vacation Bible School for 39 children of the Kiowa community through the new Graceway Church. Four children attending the VBS made decisions to accept Christ. Jack and Pat McAskill hosted the group in their home in Kiowa. Volunteers included (pictured, from left) Mary Mobley, Bob Mobley, Missy Dubard, Helen Ainsworth, Riley Ainsworth, and Jane Blair.

## 1999 MID-SOUTH PASTORS' CONFERENCE "EVANGELISM AND BIBLE PROPHECY"

FEATURING

### DR. PAIGE PATTERSON

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION PRESIDENT

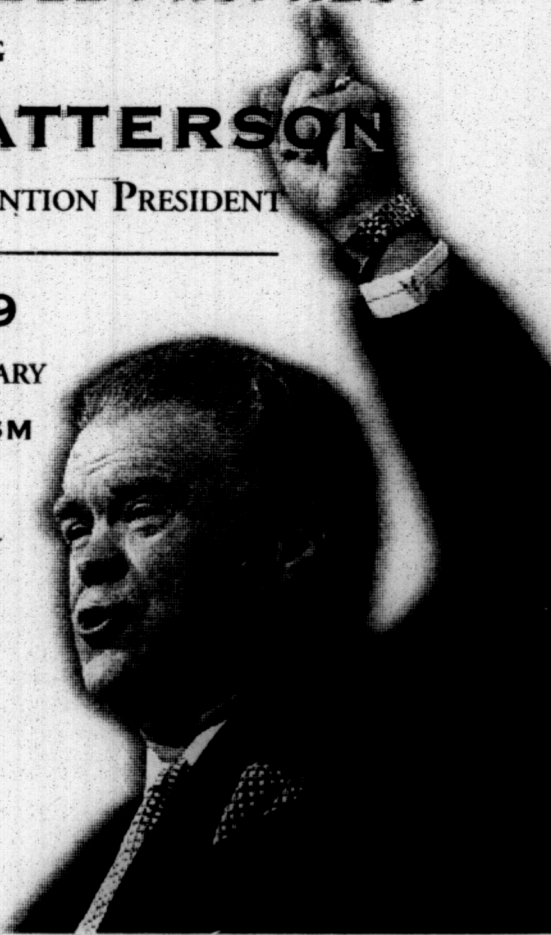
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 1999

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
LEAVELL CENTER FOR EVANGELISM

- COST: \$39
- CONFERENCE INCLUDES A COMPLIMENTARY PASTORS' LUNCHEON WITH DR. PATTERSON
- FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 1-800-662-8701, EXT. 3320
- SEATING IS LIMITED!



NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



### PARADISE

MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY SMOKE- AND ALCOHOL-FREE BOWLING CENTER.  
820 COOPER ROAD, JACKSON, MS

Sept./Oct. Church Special:

Wednesday nights... 2 hours bowling, shoes, pizza, and a drink for only \$7.00 per person!

Ask about lock-ins and other specials.

Call for reservations:  
601-372-7700.

L  
A  
N  
E  
S

### GA/Acteen Recognition

Service was held recently at First Church, Fannin, Rankin Association. Pictured (from left) are Pam Porch, GA leader; Lynn Yates, GA leader; Emily Irwin; Lindsey King; Jessica Blakeney; Keri Hall; Misty White; Valerie Brewer, who was recognized for completing all the StudiAct achievement levels in Acteens; Amy Patrick; Laurie King; and Sharon Brewer, Acteens leader. Leroy Brewer is pastor.



# New NAMB resource available for families

ATLANTA (BP) — It was about 14 years ago when Jerry Pipes first began to see a need for something like "Family to Family," a new book and curriculum resource he co-wrote with Victor Lee for the North American Mission Board (NAMB). In his work with students he noticed a distressing disconnect between what the students were learning and what they were seeing at home.

"They would walk up and say, 'You've taught that if I'm going to walk with God I need a daily quiet time. Why don't I see my mom doing it?'" said Pipes, director of NAMB's ministry evangelism team.

"It concerned me that we are teaching kids to do basic stuff that they never see their parents do," Pipes said. "And that's one reason why 88% of our kids walk out of church after the age of 18 and they never come back."

Pipes spoke during a conference on the new Family to Family Resource at the North American Mission Board's Aug. 1-5 Summer State Leadership Meeting in Atlanta.

The large attrition rate is the primary basis for the resource, which helps families develop together the spiritual disciplines that are the basis for developing healthy families. The 88% figure is based on evangelist Jay Strack's experience with top national student leaders. But the good news — based on Pipes' 23 years of ministry with students and parents — is that when families integrate such disciplines the dropout rate plummets.

"Where Mom and Dad have a sense of God's purpose for the family, and they are fulfilling that purpose and involving their kids, and they do it together, the dropout rate goes as low as 5%," said Richard Leach, manager of NAMB's family evangelism team. "A child needs to be saved and they need to go to church, but to really remain involved they need to see it at home."

Family to Family, which is designed to be taught in a small-group setting over a four-week period, outlines some of the things families can do to build lifelong Christians both at home and throughout

"Family to Family will give churches an opportunity to release families to do evangelism together in their neighborhoods," Leach said. "And so families can actually become on-mission families where they happen to live, reaching neighbors and reaching other family members with the gospel."

Among the recommendations, for instance, is to create opportunities for children to see and participate with parents as they actively share their faith. This allows children to naturally develop the same habits without the fear that comes from learning new behavior patterns as they grow older. One way is through a yearly family mission trip. Chris Schofield, NAMB's manager of prayer evangelism, shared how family mission trips have helped his family become closer and allowed him to mentor his own children.

"For so long in Baptist life we've sent the children this way and the parents that way. But when you begin to do it together, it's something that becomes fun," he said.

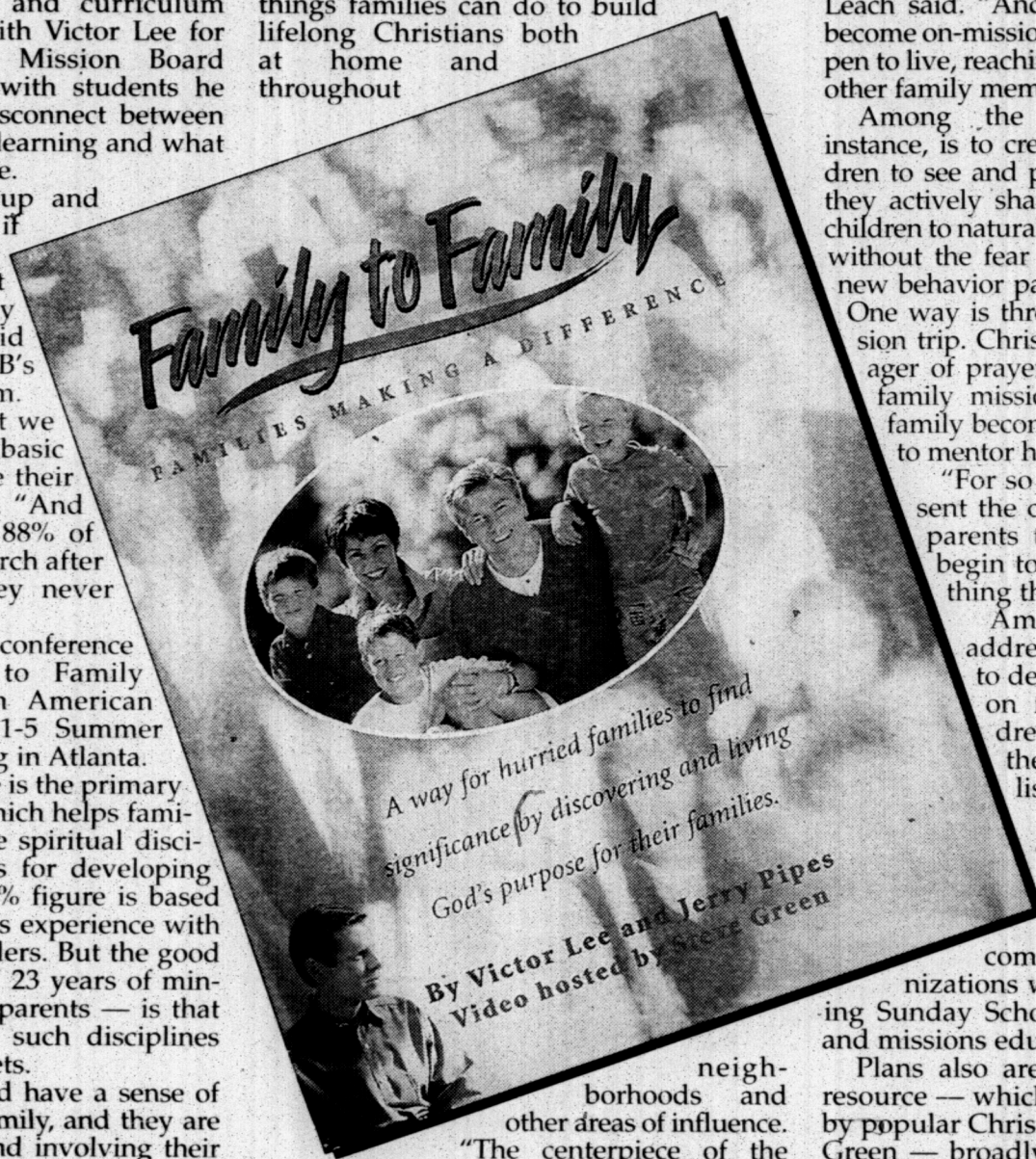
Among other topics addressed in the book are how to deal with modern pressures on family life, leading children to Christ and discipling them, and making evangelism a priority in the home.

Leach suggested that although the resource is essentially about family evangelism, the impetus for the study could

come from a variety of organizations within the church, including Sunday School, discipleship training, and missions education groups.

Plans also are in place to market the resource — which includes a video hosted by popular Christian recording artist Steve Green — broadly within the larger evangelical Christian community.

"Family to Family" is available through LifeWay Christian Resources as both a complete resource kit and as an individual book. LifeWay's customer service number is (800) 233-1123.



neighborhoods and other areas of influence. "The centerpiece of the resource is the family mission statement, a written expression of the family's understanding of God's unique plan for them," Leach said. The result is the realigning of priorities around that purpose, and the discovery of God's answer for hurried families.



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Flowood Church hosts Faith for the Future

Faith for the Future, 1999 fall renewal meeting will be held at Flowood Church, Brandon, Aug. 22-25. Meetings on Sunday will be 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Malcolm Ellis of Colmesneil, Texas will be the guest evangelist.

**Commencement ceremonies**, closing the 173rd academic session at Mississippi College (MC) were held Aug. 7 in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Degrees were conferred by Howell W. Todd, president of MC, on approximately 140 candidates. Thomas D. Layzell, commissioner of Higher Education for the state of Mississippi, gave the commencement address.

**Blue Mountain College** (BMC) Department of Music will present Edward Ludlow in his 38th faculty organ recital on Sept. 7 in Lowrey Memorial Church at 8 p.m. Ludlow will be assisted by his wife Anita and the recital will feature the Mid-South premiere of a number of organ duets including pieces by Gaston Litaize, Ronald Arnatt, and Robin Dinda. He is associate professor of organ and church music at BMC and serves as music director of First United Methodist Church in Ripley. A native of Pontotoc, she is music director of the Ripley Presbyterian Church.

**Mississippi College's** new Art Department Chair, Randy Miley, is exhibiting 20 of his artworks in the Deposit Guaranty National Bank Plaza of Jackson that will run through Aug. 24. A native of Jackson, Miley previously served for nine years as an associate professor of art education at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe. His studio emphasis is in watercolor and handmade paper. The subjects of his watercolors are often landscapes and still lifes. The unique handmade paper constructions are composed of colored cotton pulp and represent a variety of papermaking techniques from casting to painting with pulp.

**The Tenth Annual Ministers' Golf Tournament** with 36 players teed-off at the

Live Oaks Golf Club in Jackson on Aug. 2 and 3. The yearly event is sponsored by Mississippi College (MC), The Baptist Record, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The winners of the championship flight were the team of Roger Alewine, associate pastor at First Church, Gulfport, and Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula. Together they shot a round of 68 on Tuesday to take home first prize in the field of 18 teams. They were followed by the father-son duo of Tim Arinder, pastor at Emmanuel

Church, Cleveland, and his son Tommy Arinder, also from Emmanuel Church. For information regarding next year's tournament, contact the office of continuing education at MC (601) 925-3265.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

**LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.**  
BAPTISTRIES  
WATER HEATERS  
STEEPLES  
CROSSES

www.little-giant.com  
email: lgant@little-giant.com  
Box 518 Orange, Texas 77630  
TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035



ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS

**CHURCH BUSES**  
#1 MANUFACTURER  
COMPETITIVE PRICING

**SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.**  
CLINTON, MS  
1-800-423-9826  
1-601-924-1982



# Tullos: good writers use both sides of brain

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Every good writer must also be an editor, said the leader of a session on creative writing held during the LifeWay Writers Workshop, Aug. 2-5, at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

Matt Tullos, multimedia designer in the children's Sunday School ministry department at LifeWay, said, "There are two people inside every writer. One of these is the artist (the right brain) and the other is the editor (the left brain)." Good writers are able to use both.

Most writers, Tullos said, are more inclined toward the right brain than the left. While this enhances creativity, the left brain must sometimes step in and edit what the right brain produces.

Tullos, whose primary area of writing is drama, advised writers to keep a daily journal that chronicles thoughts and feelings. The journal then can become a primary source of ideas for articles and stories.

The four-day writers' workshop included general sessions on four goals of Christian writing — spiritual transformation, inviting people to faith, changing worldviews, and encouraging Christian service.

These four areas are a part of LifeWay strategic plans for the 21st century, said Mike Fink, workshop coordinator and curriculum specialist with the Southern Baptist agency's church resources division.

Speaking on changing worldviews, Rick Edwards, director of LifeWay's adult Sunday

School ministry department, said good writing must be relevant, readable, and right.

All people ask three basic questions about the world, Edwards said. All people want to know where they came from, where they fit in, and where they are going. To influence a person's worldview, he said, writers must address at least one of these questions.

"Everybody's worldview is changing," Edwards said. "As a Christian writer, you have the opportunity to influence the direction of the change and the rate of the change," directing people to a biblical worldview.

Selective conferences focused on specialized writing for discipleship materials, Sunday School materials, and family magazines.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of Jericho Church, Baldwyn, had a Seven to Eleven Lock-In. The theme was "Share Jesus with a Friend." They invited Florence Frederick, retired missionary, to the lock-in. Pictured (from left, top row) are Felesha Rowland, Billie Ruth Reed, Penny Roberts, Betty Meeks, and Daphne Taylor, leaders; GAs are Tara Haley, Beth Reed, Meagan Franks, Lee Watson, Kelly Meeks, Tuesdae Rowland, and Tiffany Wildmon.

New River Church, Tifton, Ga., held Backyard Bible Clubs, revival, did construction work, and Bible distribution in the North Delta Association, July 26-29. With them was Dwayne Turner, a 6'10" former Olympic and professional basketball star, who has developed a ministry working with youth. Turner held a basketball clinic at Oakhurst Church (pictured)

for two hours each morning. He also spoke at Spruce Street Church in the morning service and at Oakhurst Church for the evening service on Sunday. Pictured with Turner is M. C. Johnson, director of missions.



Basketball clinic at Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association

### SPRUCE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00am  
Worship 11:30am  
Word Bible Study 6:00pm  
Fri. Prayer Meeting 8:00pm  
Pastor: William E. Ramsey

Turner and Johnson

## BIBLE DRILL 2000

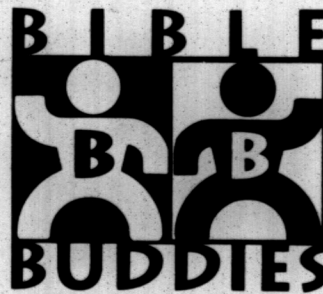
If you need help with Youth Bible Drill or Speakers Tournament in your church, contact Harvey Ellis.

**MISSISSIPPI BIBLE DRILLS**



**State Bible Drills:**  
**April 3 - 15, 2000**  
(Two weeks earlier than usual)

**Attention Pastors:**  
the new Bible Drill folder (which includes Bible Drill 2000 pamphlets and Bible Drill basics) has been mailed to every pastor in the state. Please take the time to look through this material.



If you need help with Children's Bible Drill or Bible Buddies in your church, contact Don Hicks.

To contact Harvey Ellis, Don Hicks, or to order Bible Drill pamphlets from the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department call toll free statewide 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson 968-3800, or e-mail dhicks@mbcb.org.

## Staff changes

First Church of Lizana, Gulfport, has called Joshua Parker as minister of youth effective Aug. 1. He previously served at Big Level Church, Wiggins. Levi Helmuth is pastor.

Morgantown Church, Natchez, has called Tony Hinton as minister of music and youth. A native of Liberty, Hinton previously served at Oakland Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Navilla Church, Pike County; and Zion Hill Church, Covich County. E. L. Wright is pastor.



## LIFE AND WORK

### The mature follower

Lk. 8:1-3; Mark 15:40-41; Jn. 20:1-2, 10-18

By Tony Martin

How can you know if you're maturing as Jesus' follower? In many ways, we've equated maturing discipleship with participating in some study course, or having perfect attendance, or conforming to a legalistic set of external behaviors.

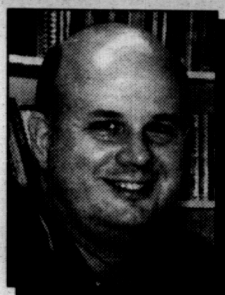
I grew up in a small county seat First Baptist Church in southeast Alabama. As a pre-teen, I remember thinking the very pinnacle of spiritual growth was to usher, take up the offering, and then sit in the vestibule during the rest of the worship service (except when it was their turn to "count").

Later, as I grew older and observed some of these men during business meetings, I realized that they weren't nec-

essarily paragons of spiritual virtue. There didn't seem to be any correlation between ushering and the condition of their hearts. I remember one moment of extreme disillusionment when a gentleman pitched the 50-year-old equivalent of a "hissy fit" because of a vote that didn't go his way.

Obviously, there's more to mature discipleship than service or position. How does one mature?

**Follow out of gratitude (Luke 8:1-3).** In this passage, we see Jesus continuing his ministry as he traveled from place to place. He was accompanied by his twelve disciples and also by a group of women, notably Mary Magdalene,



Martin

Joanna, and Susanna.

It wasn't unusual in those days for Jewish rabbis to receive gifts from grateful people. The disciples, and these ladies, certainly had benefited from the ministry Jesus had with them.

We often forget to be grateful. When we focus on Jesus' faith and kindness, we should be encouraged toward gratitude. Because of a heart of true gratitude — and how could we not be grateful in light of what he's done? — we can be better followers and a blessing to others.

**Follow unconditionally (Mark 15:40-41; John 20:1-2).** Who couldn't be moved at the sight of the women standing near the cross until the very end! There's a gentle irony at work here. These women were the last at the cross on Friday, and the first at the tomb on Sunday. What happened to all the disciples who had bragged that they would die with him, if necessary?

We have a tender picture here of sacrifice and devotion. All true followers of Jesus will at some point find themselves in difficult positions because of their faith. There can be a real temptation to feel hopeless. Yet a principle tenant of the Christian faith is to follow Christ unconditionally. If we're maturing, then we'll have a commitment to trust and follow Jesus.

**Follow when all alone (John 20:10-13).** The first few verses of chapter 20 tell of the initial visit by Mary Magdalene to the tomb. When she found it empty, she rushed to get Peter and John. They went back before Mary returned to the tomb, and upon returning she still thought Jesus was dead.

We're presented with the heartbreaking picture of the despairing Mary, alone, weeping with the characteristic lamentations of the Jewish people.

Mary didn't seem particularly upset by the appearance

of the two angels (seated, interestingly, in the same position as the angels on the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant.) Nor does she seem comforted by their presence or their words. There are times when, absolutely alone and seemingly without hope, we may be called on to follow. **Follow into service (John 20:14-18).** Following Jesus always manifests itself in service, in some form or fashion! At first Mary didn't recognize him, but just as soon as he called her by name, she knew immediately who he was.

Mary's first inclination was to hold onto him, but he wouldn't allow it. She then arose and went to the disciples with some amazing news: "I have seen the Lord!" She then went on to share the words he'd spoken to her.

No matter what we're asked to do in service to the Lord, we should be willing to be obedient whatever the cost.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Strength through weakness

2 Cor. 11:30-12:13

By Ted Dukes

I write this commentary on the heels of a week-long mission trip to Honduras, and as exhausted as I am, I cannot get the scenes and the people out of my mind.

I met passionate Christian men and women who had very little in the way of material goods, but who are some of the wealthiest people I've ever met. They travelled great distances over cobbled and rutted streets up and down mountains to reach a small village to hear and to share the gospel.

I met a young man who was willing to translate as I preached for hours to capacity

crowds in the sweltering heat. One day I was so tired that I could not go on, but he insisted on preaching one more time by himself because there were still people gathering for worship. I'll never forget his beaming face when he found me later to report that another soul had been added to the kingdom.

Bragging on himself was the last thing on this man's mind. I could see something reflected in his eyes that reminded me of Isaiah meeting God that day in church in the year King Uzziah died. I thought of the Apostle Paul, too.

In the space of a few sen-



Dukes

tences Paul moves from being "let down" in a basket (11:33) to being "caught up" in the Lord (12:2-4), all to boast about what God was doing in the midst of his people.

In a style common to Jewish rabbis, the Apostle tells his story in the third person — a story he had kept to himself for fourteen years only to tell now that Christ might be glorified.

During these years he was tormented by his "thorn in the flesh" (12:7-10), a subject about which much has been inconclusively speculated. The exact nature of the affliction was unimportant in the making of his point. Paul only mentions it so that what might have been defined by his opposition as a punishment from God could be reframed as a gift of God.

Whether in prison, in the hot desert, in the midst of a storm

on board ship, or in confrontation with an oppositionally-defiant church, his thorn served to remind him of the abiding presence of God.

What an honor! Yet, Paul prayed three times that it might be removed. There is certainly nothing wrong with asking God for relief from suffering, as long as we remember that God has not obligated himself to heal every believer whenever he or she prays for healing.

There is more benefit to bringing our burdens to the Lord than the granting of our wishes. Paul came to understand something of "sufficient grace" of God being "perfected" in him (12:9).

When you encounter suffering, how do you respond to it? Some people become bitter and blame God and others for robbing them of freedom and pleasure. Others give up on life and refuse to pursue their dreams, altered though they may need

to be. There are those who define Christianity in terms of gritting their teeth and enduring life to the end without any expectation of joy or fulfillment.

Paul understood that his affliction was not the result of God's displeasure, but that it was an opportunity to see God at work. He saw the thorn in his flesh as a message from Satan, an attempt to get the best of him and thwart the Lord's purposes, but he also saw the message from God in his trouble.

It was a message of grace from the God of all grace (Acts 20:32; 1 Peter 5:10; Heb. 4:16; James 4:6) that caused the affliction to work for Paul rather than against him. Instead of an explanation from God of his thorn in the flesh he got a promise that tragedy was being transformed into triumph in and through Paul's life.

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Marvelous opportunity

Genesis 41:14-16, 25-27, 34-40

By Grant Arinder

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

— King David

This familiar passage from Psalms seems to be such a fitting commentary on the life of Joseph. In this Psalm we are reminded that even in our darkest times, God's presence is with us.

I know that this passage is true, because it is contained in God's Word.

However, I also know it is true because I have witnessed families of faith passing through these shadows with a calm assurance that can only come from God.

These families remind one that our faith shines the brightest in the midst of the fire (Dan. 3:24, 25). The passage states that God not only comforts us, but even blesses us in the midst of our troubles. Certainly this is true in the life of Joseph.

**Prison and presence (39:1-2,**



Arinder

20). Two different times in Chapter 39 of Genesis the reader encounters such a wonderfully divine paradox. Meditate for a moment on these two passages and let this blessed paradox encourage you.

**1. Genesis 39:1-2.** Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt.... Potiphar bought him from the Ishmaelites.... The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered.

**2. Gen. 39:20-21.** Joseph's master took him and put him in prison... But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him.

Certainly God was preparing a table for Joseph in the presence of his enemies. Little did they know it at the time, but God was preparing a table for Joseph and his enemies.

The two passages listed confront us with a wonderful paradox. The text reads that Joseph was taken by force down to Egypt and then sold as a slave. Joseph must have felt like this was as low as he could go, but then we come to verse two. It seems so out of place. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown in a cistern, traded like common goods, but "the Lord was with Joseph and he prospered." The prisoner Joseph was blessed with the presence of Jehovah.

We see this truth displayed once more in verses 7-12. Joseph was faithful both to his master and his Master (vv. 8-9). Yet, he was falsely accused and thrown into the prison.

Certainly this now was as low as he could go. "But while Joseph was in prison, the Lord was with him." Once again the

prisoner knew the presence of the Lord.

These two verses set the tone for all that happens in the life of Joseph. Just as quickly as those around him could plot evil for him, God was preparing a table before him.

While some were plotting to make him mere property, God was planning to make him a mighty king. While others schemed to make him a prisoner, God was making him a prophet. Regardless of the prisons we face we must continue to look for the presence of God.

*God, in the midst of our prisons may we be immediately confronted by your presence. May the evil plotted against us be a blessing in disguise. May those that seek to do us harm only be in your greater plan to bless us.*

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
e-mail: bcvl@misnet.com

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### JULY 1-31, 1999 HONORS

**Mrs. Martha Baker**  
Wilma Stockton SSC, FBC, Amory  
**Harold Bennett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Chester R. Cook  
**Mrs. Aline Bennett**  
James & Diane Copeland  
**June & W. B. Brown**  
Ina Buckley  
Marcia B. Smith  
**Steve Fitzgerald**  
Fellowship SSC, Ingomar BC, New Albany  
**Kate Lewis**  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
**Eddie & Ina May**  
Mrs. Bertie Alyene Clark  
**Mr. & Mrs. Floyd McCullough**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Clement  
**James & Jewell Merritt**  
Mrs. James P. Fancher  
**Mrs. Nell Moore**  
Eloise Crossley BC, FBC, Columbus  
**Faye Rogers**  
Mrs. James P. Fancher  
**Mrs. Elaine Taylor**  
Dot Whitten, Judy and Vickie  
**Mr. Donald Thompson**  
Mrs. Peggy Shuckrow

### JULY 1-31, 1999 MEMORIALS

**William E. Abel**  
Mrs. Lois A. Saunders  
**Mr. Ralph Adams**  
Ruth SSC, FBC-Tupelo  
**Henrietta Mayer Bach**  
Mrs. Audrey S. Bailey  
**Richard E. Bagley, Sr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lewis  
**Mr. Mitchell Bankston**  
Mrs. Herbert G. Miller Jr.  
**Mrs. Janice Barnes**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilber C. Shell  
**Mrs. R. W. Belk**  
Mrs. Malcolm W. Heard  
**W. F. "Cricket" Bennett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Holloway Jr.

**Mrs. Bertha Bergin**  
Mrs. Mattie B. Flynn  
**Mr. Lionell Berry**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
**Mrs. Eula Louise Bevil**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
**Mrs. Herbert E. (LaVonne Little) Bishop**  
Ms. Myrtice Doty  
Ms. Ruth P. Lawrence  
Ms. Marian N. Rachford  
Ms. Helen R. Duckworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Osborne  
Hays  
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Stevens  
Members of The 25 Club  
Ms. Nellie Flaherty  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion E. Hummel  
Ms. Marie R. Hoerner  
Mr. Henry A. Moseley  
Ms. Carolyn W. Howell  
Mr. & Mrs. Penn Taylor & Family  
Mrs. Sallie Bishop & Family  
Jack & Shirley Geary  
Mr. Leon E. Lewis Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Haynie  
Mrs. Ernestine A. Wallace  
Mr. & Mrs. V. T. Hawkins  
Mrs. Ruth W. Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. George Gatewood  
Mrs. W. M. McGough  
Mrs. Mary Stringer  
Ms. Zola H. Tyree  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gaddis  
**Mrs. Bea Bollinger**  
Calhoun Bapt Assoc Pastors Conf.  
**Mr. Mason Bourne**  
Goss Baptist Church  
**Mary Charles Liles Bowering**  
Mr. Walter A. Liles  
**Mrs. Berle Boyd**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale E. Farmer  
**Mrs. Doris Sherron Boyd**  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram  
**Maurice Bresnahan**  
Gene & Janette Crane  
**Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brooks**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Vickers  
**Jack A. Brown**  
Jack & Gretchen Hatten  
**Joe L. Brown**  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
**Marie Bryant**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullledge  
**Mrs. Hettie Mae Rutland Bryant**  
Mrs. Virginia Rutland & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Tew & Family  
**Verlon Bryant**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullledge

**Curtis Buckner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Springer  
**Mr. Otis Bufkin**  
Mrs. Sam M. Brand  
**Jolynn Jones Burns**  
Janet & Ashley McAlpin  
Miss Tara L. Lytal  
Mr. & Mrs. James Paul Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Gaylon Tullos  
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar E. Arthur  
Ms. Julia M. Pope  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby J. Wilson  
**Mr. Ray Burris**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail  
**Scott Byrd**  
First Baptist Church  
**Robert Allen Cade**  
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge  
**Bruce S. Campbell**  
G. H. Dymple & Leonard Thompson  
**Mrs. Ruth Campbell**  
Mrs. Celeste C. Truitt  
**Mrs. Martha Canterbury**  
Mr. Thomas M. Canterbury  
Dot Hoof  
Mr. & Mrs. Elkin Hearst  
**Mrs. T. O. Canterbury**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Baham  
**Celia Carroll**  
Mrs. Jack M. Simmons  
**Philip Carter**  
Mr. John M. Gardner  
**Mr. Edward Lee Caston, Jr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon L. Oates  
James & Diane Copeland  
**Mr. Billy Causey**  
Maude Barney SSC, Galilee BC  
Winnie Carlisle & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jackson  
Arlington Heights BC  
**Mrs. Sarah Champion**  
Pheba Baptist Church  
**George A. Chancellor**  
Mrs. Jack M. Simmons  
**Mrs. Sara Francis H. Chapman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar J. Fryery  
Mr. & Mrs. Chester N. Herrington  
Mrs. Alberta O. Lynch  
**Mr. Clewis Clark**  
Mrs. Jeanne S. Sneed  
**James B. Cockerham**  
John & Georgia Cockerham,  
John Jr. & Celeste  
Philip & Judy, Terry & Lynda,  
Charlie & Lisa,  
Kevin & Michelle  
**Mrs. Ona R. Cody**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry French  
**Mrs. Mary Cole**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons  
**Erica Lynn Coleman**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Combs  
**Roger Colvin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bubba Foster & Family  
**Paula Copeland**  
Herman, Sheron & Christopher Coats  
**Mr. J. C. Covington**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Smith  
Dixie Street Rods  
**Rudolph Crenshaw**  
Mrs. Joan Hight  
**Mr. Gene Cribbs**  
Cindy H Shackleford (Merrill Lynch)  
Mrs. Sam M. Brand  
**Mrs. Inez Wilson Cronia**  
Mr. & Mrs. Royce C. Eaves  
Ms. Mary S. Hastings  
Mr. H. C. Speyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Halford  
Miss Marie Pantoliano  
Ms. Angela K. White  
The Word SSC, Highland BC, Vicksburg  
Mr. & Mrs. Ulmont T. Ammon Jr  
Sue & Kelly Bryant  
Mr. J. Fred Farrell  
Mrs. Agnes L. Harper  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hodnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Hebler  
Ms. Mary Louise Nasser  
Lt. Col. & Mrs. David E. Speyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Andrews  
Mr. & Mrs. Maxson  
Mrs. Margaret Fitzgerald  
**Mr. James W. Dahlem**  
Mr. Jewel Malone  
Mrs. J. A. Spruill  
**Henry Darby**  
Cascilla Baptist Church  
**Rowena Coats Day**  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Duke  
**Mr. Herbert Deaton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold

**Mrs. Mary Nell Decanter**  
Mrs. Anna W. Simmons  
**Mrs. Oline Dempsey**  
Ms. Louise Hollingsworth  
**Ed Dewett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Coleman  
**Annie Dixon**  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. McCool  
**Ina Dixon**  
Oak Grove BC  
**Mrs. Helen Maurice Dixon**  
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough  
**Mrs. Freddie Dobbs**  
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge  
**Mrs. Kathryn Dunaway**  
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Clinkscales  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hodnett  
**Mrs. Duthu**  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hodnett  
**Lee Earnest**  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Holleyman  
**Jimmy Ellis**  
Art & Milma A. Wiseloge  
**Mr. Bennett Emanuel**  
Mrs. Bennett Emanuel  
**Mrs. Helen Evans**  
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn  
**Robert E. Evans**  
Frances & Rich Defenbaugh  
**Jacqueline Suzanne Farmer**  
Glenn, Kathy, Mitch & Lacy Anderson  
**June Floyd Felder**  
Mr. Gordie Whittington  
W. O. & Birdie Kimbriel  
**Jessica Shelby Ferris**  
Dr. & Mrs. Chester W. Masterson  
**Robert Forrester**  
BLE Lodge 450  
**Claude Henry Fortenberry**  
Mr. Max H. Jordan  
Mr. Robert C. Gillaspay  
**Marshall Gardner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar J. Fryery  
**Mrs. Marie Gatewood**  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Ligon Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.  
**John Christopher Gay, IV**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald B. Bosarge  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Gay  
**Father of Mr. Larry Gilbert**  
Ms. Majie Northway  
**Katherine Grace**  
Mr. John M. Gardner  
**Murtie Mae Grantham**  
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Grantham  
**Vaudine Grey**  
Country Creek Ministry  
**Robert C. Griffin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Y. Duell  
**Tom Griffin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Moran M. Pope Jr.  
**Mrs. Betty Harmon**  
Mrs. Marion T. Hewitt  
**Mrs. Earlene Harrell**  
Goss BC  
**Lanzy Harris, Sr.**  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
**Lamar Harrison**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted McIntyre  
**Billy B. Harry, Sr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. B. B. Harry Jr.  
**Mrs. Louise Hatch**  
Jeremy Flint and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones  
W. F. Peery and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce  
**Charles Hatfield**  
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.  
**Mrs. Dean Havard**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jackson  
James & Diane Copeland  
**Annie Ruth Hays**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ray  
**Mrs. Anna Louise Henry**  
Mrs. Billie D. Whitfield  
**James Earl Henson**  
Sallie J. Ellis  
Jimmy Kent  
Fran Miller  
**Dorothy Frances Herring**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Coleman  
Dr. & Mrs. Buddy Wagner  
**Dr. Emmett Herring**  
Mr. & Mrs. Moran M. Pope Jr.  
**Mr. John C. Hewes**  
Old River Supply, Inc.  
Mike Daughdrill  
**Mrs. Janie M. Hicks**  
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Ferriss  
**Katherine Hilbun**  
13th Avenue Pharmacy & Staff  
**Mr. W. H. Hodnett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Clinkscales  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Pace Jr.  
**Mrs. Lottie Hogan**  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Brame & Family

**Irene Holder**  
Mrs. Jackie Jones  
**Wilson Hollingsworth**  
Mrs. Jackie Jones  
**Margaret Holloway**  
Mrs. Carole L. Mattox  
**Mary Holmes**  
Mr. Charles E. Holmes  
**Mr. William E. Hood**  
Women's Bible Class, FBC, Hazlehurst  
**Mrs. Mavis Hudson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Myron McBrayer  
**Elizabeth May Hull**  
Mrs. Jane M. Goodson  
**Mrs. Jan Irwin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hitt  
**Dorothy Ivy**  
Mrs. Bobby Edmonson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Peyton  
**Clayton "Lit" James**  
Mr. & Mrs. Caby Byrne  
**Allfred Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Hutchinson  
**Ethel Johnson**  
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn  
**Mrs. Virginia Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray L. Moore  
**Hazel Jones**  
Tara L. Lytal  
**James Howard Jones**  
Log Roller's SSC, State Blvd BC  
**Mr. Marshall Jones**  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry  
**Mr. B. Joe Keen**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Spencer  
Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Hawkins  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Spell  
**Mrs. Mavus Kennamore**  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Evans & Family  
**Mary Kiker**  
Mrs. Leon Fouche  
**Anna Flynt Knight**  
Mrs. Sarah K. Morgan  
**Florence McClendon Ladner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Smith  
Mrs. Hazel Stone  
**Mother of Mr. Joe Lahiff**  
Ms. Majie Northway  
**Mrs. Ruth Lawrence**  
Mrs. Otho Goolsby  
**Mr. Douglas Little**  
Mrs. Anna C. Johnson  
**Jewel Lomax**  
Deer Creek BC  
**Jerry Loper**  
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Crawford  
Mr. & Mrs. Trent L. Howell  
**Mr. George Lord**  
Lou & Libby Bullock

**John & Nettie Lou Lorick**  
Mrs. Peggy Ayers  
**Mr. Donald C. Lutken**  
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Currey  
Mr. & Mrs. Norris L. Stampley  
Jim & Sarah Pilgrim  
**Bob Mackey**  
Mrs. Mary P. Robinson  
**Fred A. Madsen**  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.  
**Mr. Edwin Magee**  
Joe Gross  
Jim, Cindy & Ryan McCurdy  
Bobbie Roberson  
**Mrs. Lou Nell Mangum**  
Mrs. Patricia Steen  
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough  
**Mr. W. H. Marsh**  
Lauderdale County Bapt. Assoc  
**Clifford Marter**  
Mrs. Peggy M. Gillon  
**James Edward Martin, Jr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bane  
Morgan Chapel Baptist Church  
Mrs. Pauline Boswell  
**Joe R. Martin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.  
**Junior Martin**  
Mrs. Florence Russell  
**Mrs. Dorothy Little Martin**  
Ina Buckley  
Marcia B. Smith  
**Allene Matulich**  
Mrs. Mary Jeanne MacKay  
**Mrs. Allene Matulich**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Pace  
Mrs. Mildred H. Stamps  
**Miss Margie Ren Maxey**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barbee  
Mrs. Anna W. Rounsaville & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Ruth  
Frances & Richie Defenbaugh  
Frances & Richie Defenbaugh  
**Edward A. May**  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Clark Hensley  
**Mike McAlum**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Halford  
**Claude McClendon**  
Mrs. Bix C. Thompson  
**Mrs. C. D. McCurley, Sr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby D. Nelson  
**Mrs. Dot McCurley**  
Mr. & Mrs. James O. Harrell  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Wilkinson Jr.  
**Mrs. Waveland McDonald**  
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker  
**Mrs. Connie McGahey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim V. Foley Jr.

**Mrs. Anna Lea McGehee**  
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Q. Causey  
Mrs. Wanda Owen  
Mrs. Myra Van Norman  
**Alton L. McIntire**  
Mr. & Mrs. Don O. Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II  
Mr. & Mrs. James Grover Shannon  
**Mr. Robert McKinster**  
Mrs. Ruby G. Hollingsworth  
Louise & Debby Hollingsworth  
Miss Billie Jo Ashley  
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Fuqua  
Norman Jean Wilcutt  
**Oren E. McLarty**  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
**Howard McWilliams**  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Lively  
**Hugh Meek**  
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Compere  
**Avie Merchant**  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Triplett  
**Mr. James Meter**  
Mrs. Herbert G. Miller Jr.  
**J. J. Meyers**  
Mrs. Essie Mae Meyers  
**Ray Mikell**  
Mrs. James W. Gregory  
**Mrs. Mae Bertis Miller**  
Mrs. Dorothy Harvison  
**Mr. Roy Mitchell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mr. & Mrs. Dicky Taylor  
**Mrs. Bess Mitchell**  
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough  
**Mike Moore**  
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge  
**Mr. Charlie Moore**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans  
**Mrs. Hattie Moore**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
**Dorothy Morgan**  
Stanton BC  
**Joe Morris**  
Cindy H Shackleford  
(Merrill Lynch)  
**Lura Morris**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barbee  
**Mrs. Velma Morrison**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Knight  
**Mr. Byron Moss**  
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Crawford  
**J. E. Mullen**  
Mr. & Mrs. Pate E. Brown Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Davis Jr.  
**Mrs. Louise Mullen**  
Mrs. Agnes L. Harper  
**Mr. James T. Murff**  
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough

## Second Annual Baptist Children's Village Benefit Gospel Singing



Featuring:  
**Jubilation Quartet**  
**Hallelujah**  
**Magnolia State Quartet**  
**The Travelers Quartet**  
**Steve Bishop with Shelton Whittington**

Saturday, September 11  
6:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Auditorium

Southwest Mississippi Community College

Enjoy an evening of great Southern Gospel singing  
while supporting a wonderful organization



# Nigerian following dream to Ridgecrest

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — To guests at Ridgecrest, a LifeWay Conference Center, Alfred Sunday Otoki may appear to be a custodian doing routine work but he is no ordinary person performing an ordinary task.

Otoki is a pastor on a mission different from those to which most Southern Baptists are accustomed. He isn't here specifically to win people to Christ, although that has happened along the way. He is here to prepare to begin a conference center in Nigeria.

For more than 10 years he has been away from his wife, Victoria, and their five adult children — two daughters and three sons — working to fulfill what he sees as a divine assignment. Through these years, he says, God has protected him, and his family has supported and prayed for him.

Vision may be the word that best describes Otoki. He came to the United States in 1988 on faith, based on a message from God through a dream. As he describes it, God told him to leave his native country to study the Bible. While in the United States, God gave him a vision to establish Reconciliation Conference Ministries in Nigeria.

There in the provincial government seat of Ijero-Ekiti, population 17,000, he hopes to offer a place for pastors, lay leaders

and Bible students to study, rest and encourage each other.

Otoki came to Ridgecrest in May 1999 to experience a conference center, Southern Baptist-style. He does not know how long he will stay until God tells him to return to Nigeria, but he believes he knows why God has brought him to North Carolina.

"What am I going to learn?" Otoki asks. "Not maintenance, not administration. God has brought me here to humble me and to pave the way."

"I was assigned to work on the bathroom crew, and I said to myself, 'You are a minister and yet you are working on Sunday,' but then God made me aware that I am ministering on Sunday where I am. God has brought me to the very mountain where he reigns. I am in the right place."

G.W. Lankford, director of the Ridgecrest conference center, said he hopes when Otoki returns to Nigeria it will be "with a vision of how he may establish a conference center there. Hopefully, Mr. Otoki's experience will have been a learning one, and the knowledge gained will extend LifeWay and Ridgecrest into Nigeria."

His experiences in the United States have included being the recipient of kindness from people who did not really know him, Otoki observes. Consequently, he wants



CHASING HIS DREAM — Alfred Otoki of Nigeria talks with Ridgecrest volunteer Alene Byrd of Lucedale, after giving a devotional for a group of volunteers at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. (BP photo by Terri Lackey)

Southern Baptists to be aware of the importance of strangers.

"Be more entertaining to strangers," he says. "Be more receptive. You never know who comes to your door. Some may come to bless you. Some may come to be blessed by you."

Otoki says he does not know how God will provide the financial means to begin the confer-

ence center at costs he estimates to be \$70,000 for the first year, but he is confident God will provide the way, so much so that he became convinced he should quit asking for money and distributing a fund-raising brochure he had printed before he came to Ridgecrest.

"God knows how to provide it," he says.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1999

PKV CMH, OZPO FANA  
QMUAOYUA PSYAKPOAV  
PKV AKAUYAQ YK CMHN  
UYKV RC FYIWAV  
FMNWQ, CAO KMF ZPOZ  
ZA NAIMKIYSAV.

IMSMQQYPKQ MKA:

OFAKOC-MKA

Clue: C = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Twelve: Twenty.

## Prepare for Y2K and trust God, missionaries told

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries must make common-sense preparations for possible disruptions

of their lives caused by the Y2K computer software bug, says an International Mission Board (IMB) special task force — and no matter how seriously Y2K disrupts people's lives, God's mission to redeem a lost world will prevail, they add.

The board's Y2K Task Force, led by Jerry Burkett, the agency's vice president for global information systems, is developing contingency plans to help missionaries deal with Y2K interruptions. Their work will continue beyond the spring of 2000.

"The Y2K bug is a man-made problem that can be overcome and no matter how significant the bug is our mission will prevail," Burkett wrote in the task

force's first report to IMB administration and trustees. "If we are prepared personally and as an organization by having contingencies in place, we will be better equipped to carry out our mission with greater freedom."

The Y2K problem stems from 30-year-old computer coding practices that saved computer memory by referring to a year only by its last two digits. Now that

the first two digits of the year are about to change — on Jan. 1, 2000 — computation errors and other software malfunctions are expected to occur in programs that still use the old computer codes.

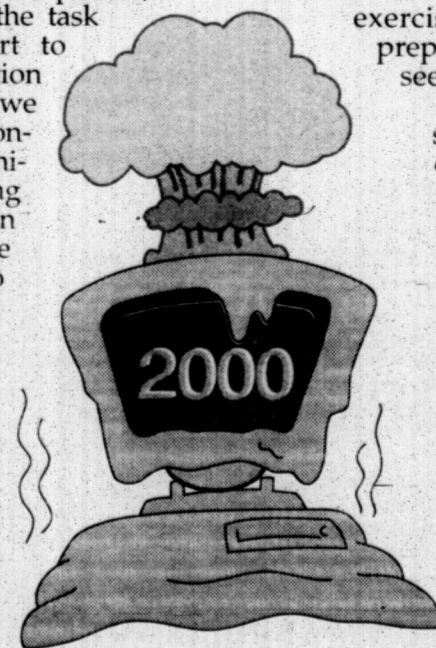
The task force is assessing and addressing potential concerns outside the U.S. Four mission-critical areas have been identified: physical needs, banking and finance, transportation, and electronic communication.

Burkett said there will be significant overseas consequences due to the software bug. Missionaries must do their best to stay informed and consider reasonable courses of action for contingencies.

"The potential Y2K fallout could best be compared to a looming hurricane," Burkett said. "There is no need to panic, nor is there any reason not to exercise good judgment in preparation for some unforeseen eventualities."

A Y2K congressional subcommittee has said all countries will be affected to one degree or another by Y2K-related failures.

"Problems in one country or sector can have widespread consequences because of interdependence between sectors worldwide. The consequences of Y2K failures abroad will range from the relatively benign to problems...that will have humanitarian implications such as power loss in mid-winter," Burkett pointed out.



## Nash: Use movies to reach non-Christians

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The popular movies that Hollywood produces can be used as tools to reach non-Christians with the gospel, according to a speaker at Student Week, Aug. 7-13, at Glorieta (N.M.), a LifeWay Conference Center. Jerry Nash, Baptist collegiate minister at McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La., led the seminar, "The Gospel at the Movies."

Stories and popular forms of entertainment have always been used to witness, he said, while also noting that Jesus repeatedly used stories in his ministry to communicate God's message in ways his audiences could easily understand, such as the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. Quoting Acts 17, he said the Apostle Paul used the idols the Greeks worshiped as a starting point in presenting the gospel. He pointed out that the Greeks had a temple "to an unknown god" and from there explained the identity of the one true God.

"Movies can become an incredible bridge if you allow them to," Nash said. "The Holy Spirit uses things you wouldn't imagine to pierce people's hearts." He said themes such as faith, sacrifice, love, and a search for meaning often are woven into movies. The film, "Contact," heavily reflects the theme of faith while "Saving Private Ryan" addresses sacrifice.

Movies such as these can be used to begin conversations that can lead to discussions of the gospel, Nash said. "You're appealing to what's already gone past their defenses."

Nash said movies strongly influence people's worldviews in today's society. They play on emotions and messages are communicated, even though the viewer may not be conscious of it. All people everywhere have four questions in common, Nash said, and a person's worldview is determined by how they attempt to answer them. The questions are:

- ◆ Where do I come from?
- ◆ Why am I here?
- ◆ Is there any justice?
- ◆ Where am I going?

These questions of origin, meaning, morality, and destiny are found in the themes of many popular movies, Nash said. "We are bombarded with images and we don't always evaluate what those images mean."

The Christian worldview is presented in many movies, Nash said, but Christians must realize it is presented as the non-Christian world sees it. Christian characters are often portrayed as fanatical or hypocritical. "At worst, [the Christian worldview] is seen as dangerous," Nash said. "At best, it's seen as lacking credibility."